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THE DAY'S DOINGS.

Chronicle and Summarized for Busy Readers.

CANADIAN.

The St. Lawrence is steadily rising, and now has covered the highest wharf at Montreal. Some alarm is felt.

A young man supposed to be Wm. H. Pope, who stole money from a Louisville bank, is in custody at Cayuga.

Hon. J. W. Ritchie, for a number of years equity judge in the Superior Court of Nova Scotia, is dead, aged 83 years.

The contracts already entered into by the corporation of Montreal will call for a provision of \$7,000,000 in the next 24 months.

Sheets for the taking of the Dominion census are now being run off at the Government Printing Bureau, Ottawa. Some 1,000 enumerators are to be employed.

Judge Horne, of Essex, has given judgment in the case of the Montreal Stock Yards, which appeared against their assessment in Walkerville on the ground that their stock was not assessable. The judge dismissed the appeal, with costs.

The Cap St. Ignace, Q., parish church was burned on Sunday. The church was one of the finest in the diocese of Quebec.

Another building used as a public hall, council hall and court house, was also destroyed. Loss, about \$125,000; insurance, \$55,000.

A civic reform scheme was favorably considered by a committee of the Toronto City Council yesterday and will be recommended for submission to the vote of the ratepayers.

The Davis Platform Blunder Company, of Cleveland, O., has been placed in the hands of a receiver. Assets, \$400,000; liabilities, \$80,000.

The Hehring Sea negotiations have been broken off for the time, and the President will shortly send a message to Congress upon the subject.

UNITED STATES.

Nearly \$7,000,000 is expected to arrive at New York next week by steamers from Europe.

The Republican Census Committee at Washington has agreed upon legislation to provide for more silver coinage.

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FOREIGN.

A dispatch to the Berlin National Zeitung from Rome says there is much anxiety in the Vatican over the condition of the Pope, who has been seriously affected by the extremely cold weather.

The question of immigration is exciting lively interest in England, whither large numbers of Jews are flocking from Russia, by way of Germany, and it is stated the British Government has instructed its consuls on the continent to discourage such immigration.

At the annual dinner of the Conservative Association of Wandsworth, Sir Edward Clarke, M.P., said the Government did not propose, so long as they had control, to take the advice of their enemies and ask the country to go into the throes of a general election. They had important measures in hand for the benefit of the working classes. In the ordinary course of things there will be no dissolution for at least two years.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

It is stated that Rev. Mr. McRobbie will shortly hand in his resignation as pastor of the Ridgetown Presbyterian Church.

Conrad Swartzenberger, Puslinch, while feeding cattle fell from a ladder. He was insensible when found, and his injuries are considered serious.

A letter received from W. J. Walker, formerly of Lawrence Station, and who jumped his bail while awaiting trial on the charge of shooting R. Miller's steer, shows that he is in Tacoma, Wash.

Mr. Marshall, a student of McMaster University, who officiated for several Sabbaths in the Baptist Church at Wingham, has arranged with the Baptist congregation in Teeswater to remain with them for a year.

News has been received from Ashland, Wis., that Stephen Rouse had been instantly killed by being thrown from a horse. He was a son of Mr. John Rouse, of near Marlen, and went to Wisconsin three years ago.

At the Morgan House, in Kincardine, the other night, Mr. Joseph Lang, late editor of the Kincardine Review, who is removing to Owen Sound, was tendered a complimentary banquet and presented with a gold-headed cane and purse of gold.

A county temperance convention will be held in the Temperance Hall, Wyoming, on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 2 o'clock, at which they will take into consideration the advisability of submitting the Ontario Local Option Law or the Dominion Scott Act to the vote of the people of Lambton.

Rev. C. E. Riddell, B.C.L., who during the past few years has labored faithfully in the parishes of North Arthur and Mount Forest, was presented with a complimentary address and a well-filled purse at each of those places. He goes to England and will be succeeded by Rev. Mr. Devan, M.A., who formerly had the charge.

At the annual meeting of the Oxford Farmers' Institute, held at Woodstock, the following officers were elected: President, Abraham Bean, Blandford; vice-president, Fred Mitchell, Inverkip; secretary-treasurer, James Anderson; directors—Blenheim, John Hall, sen., Walter Murray; Blandford, John Beattie, Thomas Baird; East Zora, J. P. Wilson, Abraham Graves; West Zora, Angus Munro, John Rutherford; East Nissouri, Frank Patterson and E. J. Pearson.

CHATHAM.

The warden gave his annual supper at the Rankin House Friday evening.

St. Andrew's Church new Sunday school was opened on Sunday, and Monday evening a grand concert was given in aid of the building fund.

Rev. J. W. Annis preached Sunday school anniversary services Sunday, addressing the children in the morning, the Sunday school in the afternoon, and on the work of the Sunday school in the evening.

Robt. Pritchard is out as a candidate for councillor for No. 4 ward, James Dillon in No. 5, and Thompson in No. 2.

Win. Wanless visited relatives and friends in Blythwood on Sunday and Monday.

Mr. John McMullen died at his mother's residence, Gray street, on Wednesday night. He was buried in Maple Leaf Cemetery on Friday night.

Snow has about disappeared. There is now about four or five inches of ice over the river and the prospects look encouraging for ice dealers.

It is reported that Mrs. Jas. Evers was struck with a railway car the other day, and now lies in a critical condition.

Good News For Those Afflicted With Rheumatism.

Rev. Jacob Her, of Cottam, Essex county, writes: "J. W. Kern: Dear sir,—For several months I was severely afflicted with sciatic rheumatism. In December last inflammatory rheumatism set in. My family doctor failed to cure me. I tried various remedies, also Celery Compound and Pride of the Valley, with no benefit. I sent to Essex Center for another highly advertised medicine, also to Kingsville, but could get none. My friend, Mr. James Doan, druggist, of Kingsville, sent me a bottle of Kern's Rheumatic Cure, which vexed me, and caused me to say to my family this preparation is from some irresponsible person of whom we have no knowledge, and if his cure is good why is it not extensively known. I did believe it to be one of those preparatory shams of worthless preparations that flood the market these days. After some days I concluded to try the stuff. It can't prove more worthless than the drugs I have been taking. But, sir, I had not taken more than half a dozen doses of it before the pain was entirely removed. That was several months ago, and I have felt nothing of the kind since. I must pronounce your preparation—Kern's Invaluable Rheumatic Cure. In conclusion, I will say I think it is your duty, as well as your interest, to make yourself and your cure more extensively known. I am a Baptist minister of Cottam, Essex county, Ont.

P. S. The reverend gentleman was so elated over his complete cure after a long period of intense suffering that he put an advertisement in the Essex Center paper recommending Kern's Rheumatic Cure at his own expense. He is upwards of 70 years of age.

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London, Tuesday, Dec. 16.

ALDERMEN AND CIVIC REFORM.

The proposition to reduce the wards of the city from six to three will be voted upon by the people of London at the coming municipal elections.

When the matter was brought under the attention of the Council last night, by the agency of a petition signed by over 1,600 taxpayers, there was a good deal of squinting on the part of certain aldermen, who seem to have the notion that the citizens who desire to ascertain the opinion of the people on this civic reform are engaged in a plot to get rid of the whole of the present Board of Aldermen.

As we understand the facts, the Board of Trade and the citizens who agree with them that the time has come for the taxpayers to take action entertain no such idea as is exhibited as a warm degree of temper in the Council Chamber. It may be that a reduction in the number of wards would result in the relegation to private life of more than one of these fearful aldermen, but the community would survive the calamity. The people must be permitted to judge what is best for them both as regards the number of the wards and the personnel of the Board of Aldermen. In any case, the change cannot come into effect before the election of the Council for 1920, and by that time the people will be able to pick and choose such citizens as are available for the proper management of their affairs.

One of the most amusing episodes in the Council proceedings last night was the man's next which Aldermen Boyd and Taylor professed to have discovered. They said that the movement for civic reform was a party question. Every movement for a change is a party question, unless it is unanimously endorsed by those entitled to pronounce upon it. Some aldermen and some citizens, we find, are opposed to this reform. It may be acknowledged therefore that in that sense this is a party question, but in that sense alone. The petition presented to the Council, which was signed by citizens of every class in the community, without respect to their social standing or proclivities in national politics, is the best possible justification for the belief that the movement is no more a party movement than the sense insinuated by the aldermanic objectors than is the movement for the reduction of liquor licenses. The ADVERTISER favors the people pronouncing on the proposition because of its merits, and our contemporary the Free Press no later than the 14th November last, gave its unqualified adherence to the movement. In its issue of that date the Free Press thus delivered itself:

"The true remedy for the money leakages is to reform not so much the personnel of the Council as the ward system under which the pressure toward expenditure is fostered. Reduce the number of wards. Have three instead of six, or, better still, but one, with three to five aldermen, who would answer for the purpose of a general commission."

And as if to show the absolute necessity for the change in the system which the citizens' petition now suggests, the Free Press reached this conclusion of the whole matter:

"Until this is done, not only will the best men not go to the Council, but there will be no let up in the petty outgoings with a large aggregate, no matter who is in control."

The weakness of the opponents of the reform here pleaded for is exemplified by their attempt to lead into false issues. The ADVERTISER means that the issue shall not be clouded if it can help it.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.
—A New York specialist, who has just returned from a visit to Dr. Koch, says emphatically to consumptives: "Don't go to Berlin. Just now it is, of all places, the place to keep away from."

—Potato growing experiments in France show that the crop from whole seed is about 700 pounds per acre more than that from cut seed, allowing for the difference in weight between the two sorts. The moral is plain that the best results in potato growing are to be obtained by using uncut potatoes for seed.

—The election for Kilkenny, which will show the strength or weakness of Parnell, takes place on Monday next. Sir John Pope Hennessy is the candidate who opposes Parnell's programme. It will be supported by Mr. Vincent Scully, who has the sympathy of the Tories, but they are a very short crop in the region.

Fred E. Anderson, oldest son of the Wyoming postmaster, who left there four years ago for the West, arrived unexpectedly at his parents' Friday evening, giving them a pleasant surprise. Since leaving there he has visited Denver, Omaha and other Western cities, and for some time past has resided in Pomona, Cal., where he is doing well. On his way home he visited New Orleans, Mexico and other cities. He intends remaining in the West.

THREE OR SIX?

Matters of Municipal Reform Before the City Council.

The Ward-Reduction Scheme Evokes Warm Discussion.

Ald. O'Meara Talks About "Flannel-Mouthed Scandal-Mongers."

License-Reduction, Ward-Reduction and the Franchise-Tax System To Be Voted on by the Electorate.

The citizens' petition asking that the aldermen submit to the ratifiers the question whether or not the wards of the city should be reduced to three caused considerable discussion in the Council Chamber last evening. The prayer of the petitioners was finally granted, subject to the opinion of the city solicitor touching the legality of the reduction. In introducing the matter Assistant City Clerk Kingston read the following letter from Mr. T. Herbert Marsh, which explains itself:

To His Worship the Mayor, and Aldermen of the City of London, Gentlemen: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. regarding the petition presented to the Council last evening, and in reply to inform you that the petition is now before the City Solicitor for his opinion. I am, Sir, very respectfully, Sir, your obedient servant, T. Herbert Marsh, City Clerk.

The petition which accompanied the letter was signed by Carling B. and M. Company, McCarly Manufacturing Company, John Green & Co., B. S. Perlin & Co., Thomas Bryan, John Elliott & Son, John Lohat, Geo. Etzel & Co., Stevens & Burns, T. Herbert Marsh, T. McCormick, Geo. G. McCormick, S. H. Abbott, John Lechard, John Marshall & Co., James A. Kennedy & Co., Robinson, Little & Co., Holpis Hardware Company, Burns & Lewis, A. E. Pavey & Co., Struthers, Anderson & Co., Nicholson & Co., R. E. Jones, McMahon & Granger, C. McCallum, C. S. Hyman & Co., London Drug Company, M. Messers & Co., Jas. I. Anderson & Co., Edward Adams & Co., R. M. Meade & Co., Geo. C. Gibbons, Fred. F. Harper, P. Mulken, G. McNab, Geo. H. Merritt, E. W. M. Flock, W. H. Emery, John M. Moore, J. H. Flock, J. J. H. Moore, Joseph Colerick, Charles Colerick, Geo. T. Brown, E. B. Boddome and others to the number of 1,561.

Ald. Thomas asked, when the petition had been read, whether there were any gentlemen present to support it. "I would like to get some information," he said, "before the motion to grant the request is put to the Council. I have signed the petition, but I cannot say as yet whether I am in favor of it or not."

Secretary A. Niles of the Board of Trade said the petitioners were of the opinion that the petition spoke for itself and that it was unnecessary for anyone to appear for it.

The Council then went into committee of the whole with Ald. Shaw in the chair. Ald. Anderson then moved that the consideration of the petition be deferred for another week.

A question was raised whether the act of Parliament respecting the amalgamation of South London would affect the proposed new division of the wards of the city. The Council, however, decided to proceed with the petition.

Ald. Jones contended that as far as No. 6 ward was concerned the petition proposed the right and proper thing. "Ald. Anderson's motion to reduce the number of aldermen," said the speaker, "will be met with the necessity of a special act which when the Council met there was a large petition before us and a big deputation to back it. When the big deputation was on hand there was not a voice raised against the granting of the petition and I am not going to be governed by a crowd. I think that the subject should be left with the people, and I will vote in favor of granting the request of the petitioners. A week ago Monday the Free Press speaking on the mismanagement of the City Council says that the citizens must blame the system and not the men. They say we have the best engineer in the country, and that if we had a system like that followed by the water commissioners everything would be all right. It might be well to look into the work of the commissioners, although I have nothing to say personally against them. They have done one great job, and the engineer spent over one-third of his time at the work. He had one of the best foremen, and under him another able man to look after the details of the work. This work was done under the old corporation system. It has been urged that the aldermen have too many friends hanging on their backs, but it must not be forgotten that the waterworks job cost in labor \$12,000. In the corporation five-sixths of the money was expended by the contract system. It men want the city engineer to do his work give him sufficient help, the same as the waterworks commissioners. He has only himself to depend upon. The aldermen have been compelled to see that the work was carried out themselves. The citizens have not dealt fairly with the Council, and they have carried on the work without proper assistance."

THE COMMISSIONERS' EXTRAORDINARY.
Ald. Boyd expressed his conviction that the matter should go to the people. "I am," he said, "heartily opposed to the passing of the new scheme, but it is proper that the voice of the electorate should be heard." Referring to an editorial in the ADVERTISER of Dec. 10 respecting the management of the water commission, the alderman said: "The ADVERTISER says that the commissioners are the people. That they do everything that is right. It says that the Board of Commissioners and its staff should be commended by the people. The commissioners have done an enormous work by the old corporation method that no alderman in this Council would have sanctioned. The work was carried on under the day system, and I am sure that had it been performed by contract a great saving would have been effected. I think, however, that there is a little too much politics in that petition and perhaps before the election comes off the petitioners will find out that the electors see their game. The result of such a thing would be the big wholesale man would crowd the workmen out of the field if he sought municipal honors. At present it costs about \$5,000 to run for mayor, and the successful candidate gets back \$500. How would it be for the workmen to run for alderman in a city of three wards? The reason that several of the promoters of this move give for push-

ing the petition is that the old Tories may be crowded out of the Council. There are some old chaps here, they say, that cannot be got out any other way—such men as Skinner, Boyd, Taylor, Wallace and Bartlett. I am opposed to the measure, but think it only right that the petition should be handled by the people."

A GREAT CHALLENGE.
Ald. Thomas unbanded himself of a long complaint respecting the usage of the Council by the press. "It was stated time after time," he said, "in this Council Chamber that the price paid by this Council of 25¢ and 25¢ cents per night per light for electric lighting was the cheapest light in Canada. This statement never appeared in the papers. There was a nigger in the fence. It has been charged that the aldermen's hands had been greased. That the awarding of the electric light contract was one of the paid jobs. I would like to see the statement in the papers now." In support of his complaint he related a story of the inaccuracies of the Free Press. "There are two places of amusement in the city. At one of them an entertainment was announced and one of the bands engaged. It rained, however, and the band's engagement was canceled, but in the morning Free Press I read a third of a column describing how the band discoursed sweet music on the lawn. I was not there, but I saw the band. I would like to see the statement in the papers now." In support of his complaint he related a story of the inaccuracies of the Free Press. "There are two places of amusement in the city. At one of them an entertainment was announced and one of the bands engaged. It rained, however, and the band's engagement was canceled, but in the morning Free Press I read a third of a column describing how the band discoursed sweet music on the lawn. I was not there, but I saw the band. I would like to see the statement in the papers now."

The report of No. 3 Committee recommending that M. Baldwin be paid \$100 for watering Stanley street, and that five fire alarm boxes be purchased and erected for No. 6 ward was read by Chairman Boyd and adopted.

The report of No. 2 Committee, recommending the payment of William Howie's accounts of \$85 00 and \$28 00, was presented by Ald. Jones and adopted.

The petitions of Wm. Greenward, Jane Fleming, Joseph Lynch, J. G. McCue, Rosa Garrity, Wm. W. McCarly, Burns, Elizabeth Ward, C. R. Somerville, Ferguson, Mrs. E. Saunders, J. Williams, Mary R. Morley, G. McCallum, G. Flaxton and Mrs. L. Jones were referred to No. 1 Committee.

The McCarly Club's request asking for the use of the City Hall on Jan. 16 was granted.

The thanks of Lieut.-Col. Smith for the vote of thanks passed by the Council to the members of "D" Company Band were received and filed. The communication also intimated that the band would be ready to give similar concerts next summer.

NEW BUSINESS.
Ald. Anderson moved that application be made to have the Municipal Act amended at the next session of the Ontario Legislature by reducing the number of aldermen in a ward from three to two. Lost.

Ald. Jones moved that a bylaw be submitted to the electors by which all street improvement shall be done under franchise tax. Carried.

THE BYLAW FIXING THE ASSESSMENT OF E. LEONARD & SON AT \$70,000 WAS AMENDED SO THAT THE FIRM CAN STILL EMPLOY WHAT OUTSIDE HELP IS AT PRESENT ENGAGED. IN THIS WAY IT WAS FINALLY PASSED. THE BYLAW GRANTING 23 FEET OF THE SOUTH SIDE OF YORK STREET TO THE SAME FIRM WAS AMENDED BY STRIKING OUT THE REUSE CLAUSE AND AS AMENDED PASSED.

Bylaws authorizing the taking of votes finding them correct recommend the same for the Council.

WARD 1—C. A. Kingston, Thomas Cousins, Ward 2—James Percival, Samuel McBride, Oswald Baynes and Stephen Smith. Ward 3—William Wilson, John Fleming, Albert Trimble and William Atkins. Ward 4—Alex. Gunn, James Jury, Thomas Ward 5—Archie Macdonald, John E. Showers, Charles Bartlett and Edward M. Flock. Ward 6—Fred Jones, Geo. H. McCarly, James A. Young and H. N. T. Colquhoun.

NUMBER ONE COMMITTEE.
1. Your committee having examined the following accounts, amounting to \$2,381 00, and

No. 1 Committee Accounts—Deputation to Thomas Boyd, Esq., for expenses, \$20 00; Wm. Howie, \$10 00; Bartlett, \$20 00; Isaac Brown, \$10 00; City Hall, \$10 00; McDonald, \$20 00; block pavement, S. Bartlett, \$20 00; Total, \$100 00.

No. 2 Committee Accounts—Fire department, \$100 00; H. C. Colerick, \$100 00; A. McDonald, \$100 00; W. J. McDonald, \$100 00; Smith Bros., \$100 00; D. Ferguson, \$100 00; Bell Telephone Company, \$100 00; T. Hartley, \$100 00; Stevens & Burns, \$100 00; Wm. Fox, \$100 00; McCarly Manufacturing Company, \$100 00; market pay sheet, \$100 00; street watering, Geo. McNab, \$100 00; Smith Bros., \$100 00; Total, \$1,000 00.

Relief Accounts—M. Baldwin, \$71 25; C. Boddett, \$24 25; Wm. C. Christian Association, \$20 00; Total, \$115 50.

The petition of John Ferguson & Son be granted by reducing assessment on their present properties on King street to \$20,000 for ten years to date from Jan. 1, 1901.

That the petition of Mr. L. Lawless, re dog tax be granted.

That the petition of Mrs. Agnes Heron be granted by charging 1800 taxes against the property.

That the petition of Mrs. Hogg be referred to the Court of Revision.

That the petition of R. Gray for rent of room in East End Hall be granted, \$5 cents.

That the petition of Mr. A. Massey, Meredith, Gammon & Co., and W. K. Taylor be filed.

Your committee beg to submit the Police Court clerk's report for November.

Your committee beg to report progress.

That the petition of T. H. Lacombe, Chapman & Co., C. Hillburn, C. Hamilton, Mrs. Chapman, A. Wilson, Hugh Lowe, W. Lind, W. C. Van Horne, C. Ferguson, P. M. Lawson and S. Nixon.

The report of No. 3 Committee recommending that M. Baldwin be paid \$100 for watering Stanley street, and that five fire alarm boxes be purchased and erected for No. 6 ward was read by Chairman Boyd and adopted.

on the questions of reducing the liquor licenses, reducing the wards and having street improvements done under franchise tax system were read a second time, and the Council then adjourned at 11:45.

Folding beds, English, \$8. Furniture of all grades very cheap. T. BARNES, 385 Talbot street, opposite market.

WHOLESALE AND JOBBING TRADE ONLY.

High-class Cut Chewing and Smoking Tobaccos.

CUT PLUG SMOKING. GOLD FLAKE, UNCLE TOM, HAND MADE, WID WAG.

FINE CUT CHEWING. GOLDEN THREAD, GLOBE, VICTORIA, JERSEY LILY.

TRY THESE BRANDS. MANUFACTURED BY

THE GLOBE TOBACCO WORKS COMPANY, Limited

OF LONDON.

Now, Boys, Get Ready!

BURNS, THE CLOTHIERS

Are Ready for You.

We have 500 beautiful Sleighs, which we are giving away FREE to every boy who buys his SUIT or OVERCOAT from us.

Make your selections now while our stock is overflowing with nice goods at the lowest possible prices.

Every boy gets his Sleigh FREE with his Suit or Overcoat.

SOMETHING NEW.

The Automatic Carpet Stretcher and Tack Driver Combined

Will drive 60 tacks a minute without bending your back or touching a tack. Call and see it at

Westman's Hardware, 111 Dundas St.

OUR GREAT HALF-PRICE

GENERAL REDUCTION SALE

Is Doing the Business Because the People See it is Genuine.

OUR REDUCTIONS ARE PLAIN TO BE SEEN

Our Goods Are Marked in Plain Figures, Hence the Great Success.

THE GOODS ARE BEING SOLD REGARDLESS OF COST.

Our great stock of artistic goods advertised to be sold at half-price is all first-class and most suitable for holiday presents. No old or shop-worn goods. Our Bronzes are not pot-metal or bronze lead, but artistic French importations.

THE LEADING HOUSE OF THE WEST. SEE SOME OF OUR PRICES.

A Rich Parlor Lamp, complete, 75c.; a Hanging Lamp, complete, \$1 98; a lined Dinner Set, 85 pieces, \$4 75; a Decorated Gold- \$6 50. Call and see for yourselves that we have the cheapest goods in Canada.

THE CRYSTAL HALL.

W. J. REID & CO.

HOOVER

COMPOUND EXTRACT

W. J. REID & CO.

100 Doses

LOOKING

Public Meeting

West

The Year's

Problem

Question

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Best Man in London,
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of Kemp's Balm for the
cure, a remedy that is selling
in millions and is guaranteed
to cure all Chronic and Acute
Rheumatism, Bronchitis and Consump-
tion. 50 cents and \$1.

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CHEWING.

AD, GLOBE,
HIGH COURT,
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MPANY, Limited
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Driver Combined
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100 Doses One Dollar

LOOKING BACKWARD.

Public Meeting of the London
West Ratepayers.

The Year's Doings Reviewed - Civic
Problems Discussed - The Amalgama-
tion Question - London West's Side of
the Story - Electric Light Contracts.

As is the annual custom in the village,
the members of the London West Council
met in Collins' Hall last evening to render
an account of their stewardship during the
past year and for a general discussion of
municipal topics. The meeting was a lively
one, much more so by the presence
of a large number of the rising generation,
who applauded liberally and indifferently,
interjecting all sorts of witticisms and
quips, to their own great amusement.
Reeve Lacey was voted to the chair. He
did not know that the members of the
Council had much to say. They had done
nothing this year and done it very well.
The statement for the year showed the
school board account to have been
\$2,442 64, an excess of the estimate, he
believed; the Board of Works had dis-
bursed \$476, a decrease on last year's ex-
penditure of over \$1,500; salaries were
\$347 00; relief, \$37 72; printing and sta-
tionery, \$90; electric lighting, old account,
\$101 63; Board of Health, \$35 37; station-
ers' fees, \$1,409 57 ("Oh! Oh!"); rent, \$12;
whate on taxes, \$81 85; expense account,
\$123 54; making a total of \$3,540 38.
The amount of taxes collected this year up
to date had been \$4,500, with about \$2,000
to come yet, a bank account of \$800.
There seemed to be some murmuring at the
solitors' fees, but that was a thing
over which they had no control, with the
exception of about \$100. The other charges
were for suits entered previous to this
year's Council coming into action.
A Voice—What is next year's Council
going to do for money? You have nearly
all this and last year's taxes.
Reeve Lacey—If next year's Council will
be as economical as the present has been,
there will be no difficulty.
A Voice—How much uncollected taxes
did you have last year?
Reeve Lacey—We had the large amount
of \$23 25.
Councillor Duff, chairman of No. 1 Com-
mittee, said they had had little to do in the
way of spending money this year, unless
paying lawyers. They had no control
whatever over the school board expendi-
ture, and the December salaries were not
yet paid. There was \$101 63 marked as
being paid for electric lighting, but that
did not pay for lighting for the whole year.
The total amount of which was about \$1,400.
They had had a dispute with the electric
light company. When the Council came to
the members felt it was advisable
to cancel a contract, as the
amount was more than the village
could reasonably afford to pay.
Negotiations had been entered into between
the Ball Company and the Council with a
view to securing better terms. It was
probable that some concession would be ob-
tained, but the particulars it would not do
to make public just now. The solitors'
fees of \$1,409 57 had been paid; it seemed
to be unfortunate that the village was blest
so by the lawyers.
A Voice—Are you through with them
now?
Mr. Duff—Well, I hope so there are
some little bills to come in yet. ("Oh! Oh!")
There was the Foster case, where the old
gentleman fell and broke his ribs, for which
they had paid so far \$651 10, with \$300 or
\$400 more to pay before they got through
with it. Then came the Hueston affair, in
which a dilapidated old hack was damaged
near Mount Pleasant Cemetery, and for
which they had already paid Meredith &
Vereidith, the plaintiffs' solitors, \$837 20,
while the village solitors' fees would
probably be \$200. (Derisive cheers.) But
the present Council were not responsible
for that; they simply defended themselves.
The account of \$136 60, re amalgamation,
they were willing to stand; it was forced
upon them. The special committee ap-
pointed on the amalgamation question came
to satisfactory conditions with the city
committee, but the Council refused to
ratify this. The village was going to have
a meeting in the waterworks dam or see
London West was 20 mills and in the city
prompt payments the village rate was really
19 mills. Their tax collector was paid 1 1/2
per cent. of all he collected, and was bound
to hand over 2 per cent. of what he failed
to collect, thus leaving something to pay
him with. Of \$3,000 liability in the bank,
they had paid off \$1,500, as it was thought
better to allow the ratepayers 5 per cent.
than give the bank 6 per cent.
Chairman Brodie of No. 2 Committee
thought he had little to say owing to the
light expenditure. He would have made
little more improvements in the village, but
expenses had to be kept down, and they
had kept them down very well.
Chairman Spence of No. 3 said the relief
expenditure had been very low as they con-
sidered the Councils of the past two or
three years had spent enough on that for
five years to come. He claimed
the action of the Council in re-
fusing to submit the amalgamation bylaw

to the people quite right. They were there
to watch over the public interests and did
not think such would be forwarded if they
plain the ratepayers would not be benefited
by amalgamation. Their rate of taxation
would be much higher, and their property
would not be increased \$1 in value.
A Voice—We would have water and fire
protection.
Continuing Mr. Spence said they had all
the water they wanted. He, for one, would
be willing to go in for amalgamation if
reasonable terms could be procured. As to
the question better than those signing. It
was different from the prohibition petition.
The latter left the matter to the votes of
the people, but the other case meant union
with the city.
Mr. D. C. Macdonald—Talk a little sense.
That bylaw would have been submitted to
the people—and carried, too.
Mr. Spence held there was no parallel be-
tween the cases at all. The Council was
prepared to stand or fall by their actions.
"Non fall!"
Mr. Spence—There was not much to fall
from. They had served the best interests
of the village, and he contended they had
saved London West \$1,000 on that action.
Some cross firing started between the
speaker and Mr. W. Smith. Mr. Spence
remarked casually that Mr. Smith would
quarrel with his own mother; that he
never had a good word for anybody, and
Smith didn't enjoy this sort of thing and
was called to order amid the jubilation of
the small boys.
Mr. W. Scarrow strongly commended the
record of the Council for the past year.
It had come into office under very
disadvantageous circumstances; the bung-
ling extravagance of the previous Councils
had nearly stranded the municipal ship.
They had found things in bad shape when
they took office, and they had made a
bank account of \$3,000 against them, and
an electric light contract that compelled
them to pay nearly \$1,400 a year, absorbing
one-fourth of the taxes. It was surprising
that five men could be found to make such
a bargain. In the city of London the rate
was 30 cents per light per night, and in
London West 46 cents, and that a five-year
contract, while the city would not enter
into more than a one or three year
contract. Other towns were getting
lamps at from 15 cents to 20 cents
per night for 12 o'clock lamps, and
if the village had done this it would be
\$4,000 or \$5,000 ahead at the end of the
five years. He did not think any five
children or old women would make such a
foolish agreement unless they were drunk.
He believed amalgamation with the city to
be the ultimate destiny of the village, but
it should be on a fair and equitable
basis. The village had got many conces-
sions out of the city and would get more
yet. The Council of 1891 would be in shape
to negotiate upon a basis of the most favor-
able nature. When London South amalga-
mated the ratepayers were allowed a
differential rate of 6 mills on the dollar;
but we went even further, and in confer-
ence with the Special City Com-
mittee, asked a concession of 3
mills. The City Council refused to
Some of the terms of the agreement were to
out the village No. 7 ward; to straighten
the river, and to place a breakwater at
the forks. But the only real need was the
opening of the dam, and would come as a
matter of course. However, London West
was not in the position to pay. Many
could get along nicely along with the
ratepayers of South London regretted
they ever entered the city. A resident had
told him that last year his taxes were
\$31 15, and this year \$41 61, and his assess-
ment \$3,800 and \$6,000 respectively.
Mr. Wm. Smith—My taxes in South
London last year were \$5 50; this year they
are only \$6 60, and I have water at my
door. ("Hear, hear.")
In conclusion Mr. Scarrow claimed the
Council had done its best for the village.
Instead of drawing from the bank they had
reduced the account. (Applause.)
Reeve Lacey did not think amalgamation
would increase the value of property, or
raise the rate a foot higher. The break-
water proposed would likely be for the
city's own interests. He took exception to
Mr. Scarrow's remarks on the electric light
question. He was one of those "old
women" who made the contract, and he was
not drunk either at the time. A man who
would say that would slander anything.
(Prolonged cheers.) He defended the
contract.
Mr. W. H. Bartram took objection to
such discussion. It was prejudicial and
entirely out of place.
Mr. Macdonald thought Mr. Lacey had
a right to defend himself.
Mr. Lacey continued, and maintained
that he had acted in good faith.
Mr. Scarrow—Why didn't you call for
tenders?
Mr. Lacey—We did.
Mr. Scarrow—I can prove you didn't.
Mr. Lacey—Go and see Mr. Hunt; he'll
tell you.
Mr. Scarrow—I saw him to-day and he
said it was the year before the contract was
given.
Mr. L. Ludwig mounted the platform,
but did not make himself clearly under-
stood. His speech seemed connected with
"grave roans," "smallpox," "Mr. Scar-
row's house."
Mr. Alf. Butler complimented the mem-
bers of the Council, with the single excep-
tion of Mr. Scarrow, whom he character-
ized as false to the ratepayers. He hoped
they would be returned again next year,
omitting that gentleman. He desired to
know why church members, like himself, if
they wanted prohibition, did not canvass
themselves, instead of sending their chil-
dren to solicit signatures.
Mr. D. C. Macdonald was received with
applause. "We know how it is to throw
mud at outgoing Councils," said he, "but
you, Mr. Chairman, with your nice little
Council have deserved none. You were
elected to do nothing and you did it well."
The petitioners for the amalgamation bylaw,
he claimed, merely wished the question to
be submitted to the people to test their
sentiments. It would only have cost \$23;
but those wiseacres—the five councilmen—
knew so much more than these couple of hun-
dred ratepayers. He was going to vote for
those men, and so were a great many others.
He was a strong amalgamationist and it was
time to have the question submitted. Why
could they not do so now? The only cost
would be the solitors'. He had no fault to
find with the present Council; everybody
was liable to mistakes, but he thought they
had done wrong in not submitting the
amalgamation bylaw to the people. As re-
gards the electric light question, they had
asked Mr. Hunt for a tender, but found his
price very high. Mr. Jones, of the Ball
Company, pointed out to them the very
large area the lights must cover, the long
stretch of wire and number of
poles, and seemed to have reasonable
conclusions for his price—40 cents per
foot. He was one of the "old women" and
not "drunk" when he signed the contract,
ready to answer for it. (Applause.)
Mr. W. H. Bartram was next called on.
He thought it was very evident that the
Council had done nothing and done it well.
The public had come to hear statements of
village affairs and had it not been for Mr.

Duff they would have known nothing about
it. He did not see how they were
going to run the Council next year; the
village was in a bad state and it
impressed him that new blood was
wanted in the Board. (Applause.) They
did not want a Council who were going to
do nothing and who brought out a state-
ment at the end of the year which no one
could comprehend. ("Hear, hear.") The
present Council, when any litigation was
pending, would rush to their solitors and
ask him to defend his legal opinion. They
should have a solicitor who would use
his efforts to keep his clients out of
law. They had an expenditure of \$1,500 or
\$1,600 last year for that purpose, with a
possibility of \$500 or \$600 more. How were
they going to pay all this? He thought
this Foster, Hueston, and other bits
of litigation, if common sense had been
used would have been satisfactorily ad-
justed without law. He had no objection
to making money as a lawyer, but when it
came to paying one-fourth of his taxes
towards law it was time they had a Council
who did not know everything. (Cheers.)
When a question of law came up they
should go to their lawyer first and get his
advice. He hoped to see a solicitor in the
Council and he himself might be a candi-
date. (Cheers.)
Reeve Lacey said the Council had a hard
row to hoe. The members might have been
straightforward at the start, but the office
soon made them different. He blamed Mr.
Bartram for the school board bungling.
Mr. Bartram replied and threw the re-
sponsibility on Mr. Lacey's shoulders. He
had a big building there they did not
occupy, and there were a large number of
children in the village with no school ac-
commodation. The School Board did not
do it; it was Mr. Lacey and his friends.
The matter was dead and gone. Why did
they wish to resurrect it? It was possible
that the school board had been investigated
and had been found that a good deal of "gra-
bling" had been done in the contract business.
He had been doing what right Mr. Lacey
had a large claim against the school board
to get up and attack every day.
Mr. Lacey asserted a right to reply to
any attack on himself. He would say that
the school board was just as much answer-
able for the debt of the village as anything
else.
Treasurer Nichol (excitedly)—Does Mr.
Bartram say that the statement furnished
by the treasurer is incorrect or that the
builders and contractors grieved their
fingers?
Mr. Bartram said the school cost too
much. He was sure some talk about con-
tracts which were higher than others being
accepted.
Mr. Wm. Smith stoutly affirmed that if
last year's Council had managed the civic
affairs the past year, the village would have
been bankrupt. He considered Mr. Duff as
one of the straightest fellows in the Coun-
cil. Many tales were needed in the Coun-
cil legislative body, however. Mr.
Smith resumed his seat amidst applause.
Mr. Spence started on the amalgamation
question business again. He was sure
many who had signed it did so under the
impression that it only called for a public
meeting. They were conserving the in-
coming of the ratepayers in not then sub-
mitting it to a vote.
Mr. Macdonald maintained the Council
had no voice in the matter at all. As soon
as the petition was presented it was their
duty to put it to the people to vote on.
Chairman Ramsey, of the Board of Health,
knew perfectly well what he was signing
when he attached his name. He did not
see why they should not entertain it and
then grant the prayer of the prohibition
petition. The Council had done very well
with that exception.
Mr. Lacey said there were only two in
favor of it at a public meeting.
Mr. Macdonald moved a hearty vote of
thanks to Reeve Lacey for the efficient
manner in which he had filled the position
of reeve and acted as chairman for the even-
ing. Carried unanimously.
Reeve Lacey made a suitable reply and
the meeting broke up.



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Ask to see our 25c Colored Satinets, all Shades at 14c a yard.
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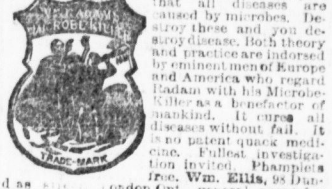
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