

Mayor and Ald. McLellan Lock Horns Once More

Private Business Transaction of Some Years Ago Dragged Into Discussion in City Council--Most Violent Language Heard in Council Chamber in Years-- Ald. Walker Tells of Blemished Horse-- Council Backs up Purchase.

The City Council last night, in regular session, took another fall out of the horse problem and the decision reached in committee to sustain Ald. McLellan's action in purchasing a team of horses for the Street Department, was again reached. Ald. Lenont, however, changed his vote, joining Ald. Walker and Ald. Baxter in opposing the purchase. He said his change was due to Ald. McLellan's statement before the Council last night.

The session was the warmest in years. Personalities flew thick and fast. Ald. McLellan and His Worship Mayor Mitchell were the chief participants in the wordy warfare. The ground covered with regard to the purchase of the horses was all covered again by both speakers. Ald. McLellan went farther, however, and informed the Council that the "ulterior motive" of His Worship in opposing the purchase of a mare from ex-Ald. Edward Moore was to get even with that gentleman for a business trouble which had arisen after His Worship, as a builder, had erected a residence for the ex-alderman. Mr. McLellan stated that when the business was settled, Mayor Mitchell had in his possession five hundred dollars of Mr. Moore's money, which he gave up only "when a pistol was put to his head and legal action threatened." The mayor characterized the statement as an "absolute falsehood" and intimated further that all money paid to himself during the building operation referred to had been by cheques drawn up by Ald. McLellan as Mr. Moore's legal representative. His Worship also intimated during the operation he had been done out of a considerable sum of money by ex-Ald. Moore and his attorney, who was Ald. McLellan. The latter said His Worship had merely helped his friend-ex-Ald. Moore, to sell to the city a mare which he could not sell in the open market.

Ald. Walker's Contribution.

Ald. Walker's contribution to this warm debate was the statement that the mare purchased from ex-Ald. Moore "was down in one hip" and "had a lump on one hind leg." This brought a denial from Ald. McLellan and a statement that ex-Ald. Moore would give a guarantee before the cheque in payment for the mare would issue. He also made some remarks about Ald. Walker bringing in "gutter" information.

During a portion of the discussion Ald. Everett was in the chair, the point being taken that His Worship must leave the chair in order to reply to Ald. McLellan.

Auditor's Report.

The report of the City Auditor on the monthly expenditures was passed as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Water | \$1,404.35 |
| House Connections | 14.04 |
| Sewerage | 641.60 |
| Assessing and collecting | 3.80 |
| Municipal Home | 166.00 |
| Administration of Justice | 397.38 |
| Street Lighting | 480.63 |
| City Hall | 219.67 |
| Markets | 9.00 |
| Public works | 1.25 |
| Canada Temp. Act | .50 |
| Fire | 1,725.18 |
| Roads and streets | 1,619.48 |
| Contingent | 125.85 |

Total

Objection by Ald. Walker.

Ald. Walker took objection to all items relating to the purchase of the horses and equipment by the Street Department, amounting to \$705. Seconded by Ald. Baxter, he moved that the City Council do not confirm the action of the Street Committee in the matter of those purchases.

Speaking to his resolution, the alderman objected that no regular and proper meeting of the Street Committee had been held for the purpose of deciding on the purchase. It had been a "twilight" committee. As soon as Ald. Burnett and Ald. Barker had agreed with him in the matter, the chairman, Ald. McLellan, plunged into the horse market. A team had been purchased, a matched team in horse-flesh but not in price paid. Mr. W. A. Clark had been beaten down twenty-five dollars for his horse, the sum of \$225 being paid but ex-Ald. Edward Moore had been paid his full price of \$300. Why the difference? A veterinary's certificate was required for Mr. Clark's horse, but ex-Ald. Moore's horse was bought on the seller's word of honor. On the street during the day the speaker had been informed that the Moore horse was down in one hip and had a lump as large as a walnut on one

hind leg. This was the perfect horse purchased on the word of honor of the seller! These were not defects when Ald. McLellan bought the animal!

Was the Council going to confirm that bill after having the facts the speaker had just laid before it? He had said nothing of the cost of upkeep of the team but the price of hay and oats was going up all the time. The team had been bought with no place available for stabling. That was a nice state of affairs! Those were his reasons for opposing the expenditure and he was not ashamed of his statements.

Ald. McLellan Replies.

Ald. McLellan said he wished to thank his colleague for bringing up the matter again. He had thought the alderman the night before had been given full details. However, as this risen horse expert had seen fit to give the Council the benefit of his experience and knowledge, he (McLellan) would briefly review the facts.

Ald. Walker had gone on a new tack. At a previous meeting he had challenged the legality of the meeting of the Street Committee. At a special meeting of the City Council on April 27, Ald. Walker, in an illegal manner, had asked a question concerning the purchase of a team of horses.

Mayor Mitchell here stated that he had been careful to ask Ald. McLellan to report as chairman of the Street Committee and so had placed Ald. Walker's question in order.

Alleges Conspiracy.

Ald. McLellan said there had been a conspiracy judging from the remarks of Ald. Walker and Mayor Mitchell. He stated also that at two different meetings of the City Council, His Worship had given, according to press reports, opposite statements concerning his knowledge of the decision of the Street Committee to purchase the horse.

Ald. McLellan went on to say that prior to the last civic election Mayor Mitchell and himself had spoken together concerning Street Department matters and His Worship stated that he was, as before, in favor of a change in the department and also in favor of buying a team of horses. After the meeting of the

Street Committee he (McLellan) had met His Worship on the street and had told him of the decision of the committee and His Worship gave his hearty approval.

Lively Interchange.

Mayor Mitchell—"How did you know? Are you a mind reader?"

Ald. McLellan—"I judged so from the expressions you used."

Mayor Mitchell—"Give the expressions."

Ald. McLellan—"I can't give the exact words but I certainly remember their effect."

Ald. McLellan went on and told of the steps taken toward the purchase of the horses. He said also that Mayor Mitchell had knowledge of the various steps the city engineer keeping him informed. Mr. Clark had asked for immediate payment for his mare as he wished to go away and buy more horses. Mayor Mitchell, when approached in the matter of issuing a cheque in payment of the horse, said that he did not want to do it unless a majority of the Council would back him up. A majority of the Council was seen and found favorable. When approached again, however, Mayor Mitchell had shown a change of front. A frost had occurred over night. Seven aldermen out of nine had decided in favor of buying the horses. The mayor was told that over the telephone but had said his mind had not been made up. When asked when his mind would be made up, his reply to the speaker was, "None of your business." Some heated words then passed and His Worship could repeat every one if he so desired.

Ald. McLellan characterized the statement in the reporting of Monday night's meeting that the methods used in purchasing the horses were not approved by a majority of the Council, as unfair.

Ultior Motive.

The speaker then came to the "ulterior motive" of His Worship in opposing the purchase of the Moore horse after saying he was favorable to buying a team of horses. Several years ago ex-Ald. Moore had built a residence. His Worship being in charge of the operation. After a time, when a settlement was effected, only after long delay on the part of His Worship, it was found that he had five hundred dollars of ex-Ald. Moore's money in his possession.

Ald. Walker, at this juncture, rose to a point of order, stating that a private business transaction had nothing to do with the subject under discussion.

Ald. McLellan to the mayor—"Do you rule it out? Do you rule it out?"

Mayor Mitchell—"Go on with your trash and lies."

Ald. McLellan—"No, you don't dare to rule it out."

The speaker continued and said

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that the delay in this transaction was because Mayor Mitchell wanted to hang on to that five hundred dollars and it was only when the pistol was applied to his head by threat of legal action that he gave up that money.

That was the reason of his opposition to the purchase of a horse from ex-Ald. Moore—a desire to get even.

Compliments to Ald. Walker.

Ald. McLellan said that Ald. Walker evidently relied upon street gossip for his information. He picked it up in the gutters and the public streets. He failed to quite a single individual in support of his statements.

Ald. Walker—"They are true, nevertheless."

Ald. McLellan—"They are not. There is not a word of truth in them."

The alderman went on to ask Ald. Walker on what leg of the horse the lump was.

Ald. Walker replied on a hind leg.

Ald. McLellan pressed his question, which was ruled out by His Worship. He then said that Ald. Walker knew more about horses than a seven-year-old child. He did not claim the mare to be perfection but the city was amply protected by the guarantee furnished.

The transaction of purchasing the horses had been pursued in the Council with a spirit of venom. He expected the mayor would get off his little stunt as soon as he (McLellan) took his seat.

Mayor Makes Statement.

Mayor Mitchell said he must congratulate Ald. McLellan for his skill in misconstruing conversations. He had gone back to a private conversation in the office of McLellan & Hughes before election and attempted to show that the mayor had committed himself on matters relating to the Street Department. Ald. McLellan had begun to talk about Street Department matters, stating that he had always been interested in them. The appointment of a city engineer was discussed but nothing was said about dismissing the road commissioner after such an appointment and His Worship was positive that the purchase of a team of horses never was mentioned.

(Continued on page six)

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