

THE MARKET BYE-LAW.

Some Changes Made at a Meeting of City Council.

FORESTALLING NOT AL- LOWED UNTIL AFTER TEN A. M.

FARMERS CAN STILL SELL FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE.

But They Must Not Start Out Until After Eleven O'clock.

The city council spent upwards of two hours last evening wrestling with the market bye-law and after much discussion succeeded in passing two important amendments. The bye-law as amended prohibits what is called forestalling by butchers and green grocers prior to ten o'clock in the forenoon, and also prohibits farmers from peddling their produce from door to door before eleven o'clock in the forenoon. The bye-law as amended also prohibits farmers from offering cut meat or pork for sale in the market.

The meeting was called to order at 7.45, with the mayor in the chair, and all the aldermen in their places.

The mayor briefly stated the object of the meeting and the reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with.

MARKET COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Ald. Jewett presented the following as the report of the market committee:

Your market committee, to whom was referred the petition of George A. Beatty and others in respect to Public Markets and the Laws relating thereto, beg leave to report:

1. That your Committee after careful consideration of the said petition, and of the bye-laws of the city relating to Public Markets, recommend as follows:

(a) That the law passed on the third day of September, A. D. 1895, repealing sections XI. and XII. of the Market Law passed the third day of August, A. D. 1886, be repealed.

(b) That a bye-law be enacted prohibiting forestalling in the public market until after eleven o'clock in the forenoon on market days, and also prohibiting the offering for sale on the public streets or at any place in the city other than the public markets of any of the articles mentioned in Schedule (A) of the Market Law.

2. Your committee also recommend that the city clerk be authorized to issue licenses, free of charge, running until the thirtieth day of April next, under the provisions of the Market Law, to such persons as may be recommended by this committee or the city council.

3. Your committee further recommend that the police authorities and city marshal be requested henceforth to strictly enforce the provisions of the law regulating public markets in the city.

4. The building to protect the new weigh scales at Phoenix Square market is now being erected by days work.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) H. C. JEWETT,

Chairman.

Committee Room, Dec. 14, '04.

THE DISCUSSION.

Ald. Jewett remarked that he thought that the farmers would prefer to have the market law left as it is at present.

It was decided to take the report up section by section.

Ald. Farrell stated that the duty of the council was to look after the interests of the ratepayers of the city and enact such legislation as would be to their benefit. He thought the present law gave too much leeway to the grocers and butchers as it allowed them to buy up the produce before the ordinary citizen got a chance. He thought the bye law would be more satisfactory if the grocers and butchers were given a chance after ten o'clock instead of eleven o'clock.

Ald. Scott, thought the butchers of the city at the present time had a grievance which should be removed,

but he was not in favor of all the changes in the bye law recommended by the committee. He thought it would be impossible to prevent forestalling, and he could not see any advantage to be derived by citizens from the proposed amendments.

Ald. Everett said he discussed the matter with some of the petitioners who stated that they were willing to put up with an amendment to the bye law to prevent forestalling. He thought the time was not far distant when the city would have a real market law, this was but the beginning. He approved of the suggestion to make the hour ten o'clock instead of eleven. That would give all a fair chance.

Ald. Ross objected to changing the hour from ten o'clock to eleven. It was difficult for people to turn out and get their marketing done before eleven o'clock. Ald. Ross thought it would be difficult to prevent people from selling their farm products about the streets.

Ald. Farrell, did not think that the law against house to house selling could be enforced until tolls were adopted.

Ald. Scott said that there were a number of merchants in the city who bought farm produce for shipment abroad. There had been a sharp advance in the price of products in recent years. Eggs were formerly sold for ten cents a dozen, but were now worth thirty cents. Turkeys could be bought a few years ago for nine cents, now they were scarce at twenty cents. He believed that the price would keep up so long as winter port steamers sailed from Halifax and St. John. The steamers could not obtain farm produce on the other side, and so had to buy it in Canada. Ald. Scott thought the proposed amendment, if passed, would not be fair to the merchants. He declared the present market accommodation to be inadequate, because of the lack of shelter, and the law could not be enforced until a change was made. It would be hard to compel farmers to remain in the market with perishable products until after ten o'clock on a cold morning. At the present time people could buy eggs and other farm produce as cheaply from the merchants as they could in the market.

Ald. Barbour strongly approved of the section to prevent forestalling. He thought the time had arrived when some change should be made, and public sentiment would support the action of the council.

Ald. Scott thought it would be difficult to enforce the law until better protection was provided for the farmers and their teams.

A motion to amend the section by substituting the words ten o'clock "for eleven o'clock" was carried and the section was adopted on the following division:

Yeas—Edwards, Stockford, Everett, Barbour, Farrell, Maxwell, Jewett.—7.

Nays—Scott, Ross, McKnight.—3.

The section authorizing the city clerk to issue licenses to butchers and other meat dealers free of charge for the balance of the year, was next read.

The city clerk said there was a provision in the law to compel butchers to take out a license, but as the law had not been enforced, no licenses had been taken out during the past year. Now it was proposed to license them, that they might be brought under the control of the council.

Ald. Everett approved of the action, but Ald. Scott said it was not quite clear to him. He wanted more information on the subject.

The city clerk explained that the license would only be issued to ratepayers of the city.

After some further discussion the section was put and carried.

The mayor was obliged to leave the meeting at this stage to catch the train, and Ald. Farrell took the chair.

Section 3 of the report was adopted without discussion.

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and was having the job done by days work.

Ald. Scott approved of the course followed by Ald. Jewett.

Ald. Barbour said that the new building would have a barnlike appearance and would not be pleasing to the eye. He believed that a little more time should have been taken and plans of a building prepared for submission to the committee. The responsibility would then not have been thrown entirely upon the chairman. He was in favor of having a price set upon all work before it was undertaken.

Ald. Everett said that as a member of the market committee, he had not been consulted in regard to the new building, and therefore was clear of responsibility.

Ald. Jewett said that if members of the council disapproved of what had been done, it would be an easy matter to stop the work, and have plans prepared.

The chairman suggested that the work of preparing the frame for the building might go on, but the committee or council could meet and decide on the outside finish. It was important to have a building that would be satisfactory to the public.

MARKET BYE LAW AGAIN.

The report of the market committee having been disposed of the bye law and amendments were then taken up.

Ald. Scott said he was opposed to the change in the bye law as he thought it would work and injustice both to the farmers and citizens. Under the amended law, if a farmer, while on his way to the city, should stop at the Aberdeen Mill or Victoria Mill, and sell his products, he would be liable to a fine. He favored a law that would prohibit farmers from cutting up meat and pork, and selling it about the streets in that way.

Ald. McKnight did not favor the section of the bye-law to prevent people from peddling their produce about the streets. It was a great convenience to the working man to have farm produce delivered at their doors. He was in the grocery business himself, but did not want to force trade at the expense of the public. Very few of his best customers today ever bought butter, eggs or potatoes from him. It was easy to talk of imposing tolls upon the market, but it was the consumer

who paid the bill in every case. If Mr. Beattie's tempting offer was accepted it would mean just \$1,000 more taken from the city in taxes.

Ald. Edwards said it would be impossible to enforce a law to prevent people from selling farm products about the city. During the twenty years he was proprietor of the Queen Hotel, he never had any difficulty in buying all the produce he wanted without going near the market, no matter what market law was in force.

The city clerk explained that there was nothing in the law to prevent a citizen from going into the country and purchasing all the farm produce he wanted for delivery at his home.

Ald. Edwards said if that was the case the law would be of no use. A person caught selling farm products at a house could merely say that he was delivering goods. It would need two policemen for every block to enforce the law.

Ald. Scott said that he was positive that the law could not be carried out, and would only result in making liars of people. It would require one detective for each house to enforce the law.

Ald. McKnight said that the butchers were the only ones who were complaining, and they undoubtedly had a grievance. The council should stop farmers from cutting up beef and offering it for sale in the city.

After some further discussion a motion to adopt the bye law was put to the meeting, but nobody seemed anxious to vote for it in that form.

The chairman was about to call for the yeas to rise, when Ald. Edwards saved the situation by moving that the bye law be taken up section by section. The motion was adopted.

The first section having to do with forestalling was then taken up and adopted, with the amendment already referred to.

Ald. Everett did not think the section relating to the house to house sale of products could be enforced until tolls were adopted.

The city clerk said there would be no object in adopting the previous section, unless the other followed. One was of no use without the other.

Ald. Barbour was willing to allow the farmers to sell about the

streets after eleven o'clock in the morning.

Ald. Edwards was in favor of Ald. Barbour's suggestion.

Ald. Jewett said that the butchers were the only ones who appeared to have a grievance against the present law.

Ald. Scott thought that the law would not be workable even with Ald. Barbour's amendment, as perishable goods would freeze before eleven o'clock. It would be impossible to adopt tolls until a market building was provided.

Ald. Barbour moved an amendment to the section that the farmers be allowed to sell about the streets after eleven o'clock. This was seconded by Ald. Edwards.

Ald. McKnight wanted to know what the farmers would do to prevent their potatoes from freezing.

Ald. Everett—Bring them in on warm days. (Laughter.)

Ald. Scott said that the amendment, if adopted, would make the council more ridiculous than ever. It would be impossible to get farmers to stay in the market without protection until eleven o'clock.

Ald. Everett claimed that the produce delivered to grocers and butchers was generally bought in advance from the farmers.

Ald. McKnight was inclined to agree with Ald. Scott's views.

After some further discussion Ald. Barbour's amendment was adopted on the following division:

Yeas—Barbour, Edwards, Jewett, Ross, Everett, 5.

Nays—Scott, Maxwell and McKnight, 3.

Ald. Stockford was in his seat but did not record his vote.

The bye-law was then adopted as a whole, and ordered to be published for general information.

At 10 o'clock the council adjourned sine die.

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