

THE DAILY HERALD

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DAILY HERALD.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1902.

THE CIVIC ELECTIONS.

Our correspondent who in a letter which we publish today, agrees with the Herald that the public indifference to civic politics is to be deplored, is one whom we should be glad to see take up civic responsibility—a gentleman who is in every way qualified to assist in putting the council on a more representative and responsible basis, but like others who should take up the burden of city government, he declines to become a candidate.

One result of the indifference of leading men of the city as to how the civic machine is run and who compose the board of aldermen, is pointed out by our correspondent. The majority of the heavy taxpayers, of the intelligent and progressive citizens is in favor of the introduction of sewerage, but in undertaking a work of that character and cost the city should see that the right men are in the council to carry it forward. This is the strongest possible argument in favor of a proper, representative and responsible board of aldermen, and the Herald had it in view in discussing civic politics in its Saturday issue. The city wants sewerage, needs it badly, and if given a fair opportunity will vote in favor of it. It also wants responsible men to carry the project forward, and it is neither too late to secure both during the present year. What is the use of ratepayers grumbling about civic management, about their civic representatives all the year, and then when the elections come around calmly sit down and permit the election of any irresponsible who may happen to have the property qualification.

Let the citizens arouse themselves from their lethargy, put good men into the council, vote for sewerage and see the thing through.

NOMINATION SPEECHES.

The nomination proceedings at Hampton in the Kings county bye-election Saturday, were quite lively, but the honors seem to have rested with the government.

Mr King the government candidate spoke first and made a very favorable impression, reviewing the government policy and administration, and showing how carefully the government had looked after the important interests of the province.

Mr Sproule, the opposition candidate, would not agree to a reasonable division of time among the speakers for which he must have been deprecated by Mr. Hazen. Mr Sproule spoke two mortal hours, attacking everybody and everything connected with the government, but was forced to admit that neither Dr Pugsley the government, Mr King or Mr Gilliland were responsible for the Rotheray bogus electoral list.

Dr Pugsley followed in an elaborate and eloquent defence of the government, and Mr Hazen the opposition leader, closed the meeting, but his candidate Mr Sproule had taken so much time that Mr Hazen's rounded periods were delivered to an almost empty house.

The election occurs on Saturday next, and while the fight is a hot one, the expectation is that Mr King will carry the constituency. Mr Fowler, M. P., is down from Ottawa taking a hand for Mr Sproule, but the influence of Dr Pugsley who has proved such a good friend to his constituency should far outweigh any assistance Mr Fowler may be able to render the opposition.

The White House is sheltering loyalty, and Washington is all zgog.

A WICKED PRACTICE.

The man who docks a horse's tail should have his own ears slit, or some other mark put on him that he would carry as long as he lives. The practice is most wicked, and happily is being discouraged by those high in position and authority. Why should a poor, dumb brute be deprived of its chief weapon of defence against the myriads of flies, and other worrying insects that make life miserable for it especially during the hot weather.

The practice prevails most extensively in England, and has largely been adopted by the Anglomaniacs of the United States and Canada, but it is reprobated by King Edward, who has made it known that he will neither purchase nor own nor even use a horse that has been mutilated by docking, while President Roosevelt has set the fashion in the United States by issuing specific instructions to the effect that horses purchased for his use at Washington must not be docked.

The dictates of humanity cry out against the cruel practice, and those in authority should see that it is stopped.

THE MANITOBA REFERENDUM.

The Tory government of Manitoba refuses to take the responsibility of proclaiming the prohibition law in force, even though it has been declared constitutional by the highest court in the realm. The question is to be referred to a vote of the people to be taken March 27, and the act will come in force June 1 if any three of the following conditions are fulfilled:—First, if 45 per cent. of those on the list vote in favor of the act, or, second, if 60 per cent. on the voters' list vote and 60 per cent of those who vote are in favor, or, third, if the vote falls below 60 per cent., then a percentage between 60 per cent. and 66 2-3 per cent. will be taken. No reference is made in the bill to compensation for the liquor men. The bill consists of twenty-five clauses and two schedules, but apart from the provisions outlined above there is little or nothing which effects the issue. The majority of the clauses are merely formal in their nature, and provide for machinery and so forth.

Pity Gourley the belligerent Tory M. P. had not enlisted for service in South Africa. He could have found plenty of trenches there. Any man who professes the ability to knock spots of the Yankees, capture Washington and annex the U. S. to Canada would be a valuable man in Kitchener's fighting line.

Prince Henry of Germany reached New York Sunday, and must have been delighted by the hearty welcome extended to him. He will spend two or three weeks in the United States and will be lionized as no other foreign prince has been.

There is a rumor at Ottawa that Lord Dunroald, a South African hero, is likely to succeed General O'Grady Haley in command of the Canadian militia. Lord Dunroald is a Scottish peer 50 years old, and has a brilliant military record.

THE CIVIC ELECTIONS.

Correspondent Who Deplores With the Herald Indifference to Civic Politics.

To the Editor of The Herald:

Sir—Your timely editorial on "The Civic Elections," in Saturday's issue should be effective in awakening the citizen to the importance of securing representative men at the council board.

I doubt very much however, whether any such result will follow your appeal. A strange and regrettable indifference on the subject has apparently settled down upon the city. Few seem to care who the civic representatives are, or whether they possess the business ability and the qualifications generally regarded as requisite for such positions in other communities, while, as you remark, men who have a right to take their share of public responsibility refuse to accept nomination and place themselves at the service of the people. Far too low an estimate of the honor and responsibility attached to a seat at the council board seems to be entertained.

The men, whom one would naturally expect to be ready and willing to fill

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these important representative positions in the capital city of the province, treat the suggestion that they should accept nomination with marked indifference, to say nothing worse. Possibly under special circumstances, they might accept election to the mayor's chair, but if you wish to avoid giving offence don't suggest nomination to what, in my judgment, they mistakenly regard as the less dignified and important position of alderman.

Whatever the reason, there is a dearth of good candidates, and the probability is that unless some general movement is at once made, the city council for this ensuing year will not be the equal of that for the current year in which you suggest there is undoubtedly room for improvement.

Under these circumstances it becomes an important question, apart altogether from the merits and demerits of the sewerage problem, whether the plebiscite vote should now be in the affirmative, as the Herald hopes it will be.

As one elector, at any rate, I do not feel disposed at present, to add materially to my taxes—already in my opinion unjustifiably high—by voting for a further civic liability of, say \$100,000, until, at least, I know who the men are who will be responsible for its expenditure in a work of such special importance and of more than ordinary difficulty, nor until. I feel assured that the new council will make an honest and determined effort, by economy and judicious retrenchment wherever possible, to cut down the present excessive taxation, for which in my opinion there should be no reason in a city of this size and general character. If a plebiscite is necessary to authorize the council to act on the sewerage question, let it be held after the civic election and when we know who the mayor and aldermen are, and can judge of their business ability and public integrity. In the meantime it is not better to bear the ills we have than fly to others we know not of?

February 24th.

House Rent Free.

Reliable man with small family, wanted to occupy house in this city, rent free. Apply to W. S. Hooper, in store formerly occupied by Kitchen & Shea, on Tuesday next, 25th inst., between 3 and 5 p. m.—Feb. 22, d21.

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