



The Advocate.

"Pro Bono Publico."

WOODVILLE, JAN. 1, 1880.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Another year has passed away and is added to the countless ages which have winged their way to the unrecalled past. Although the changes and events which have taken place in our village during the year have not been numerous, still there are faces which this time last year cheered us with their smile that have passed away, others have left our midst and sought homes elsewhere; strangers have come among us, and altogether the year has effected considerable change. In the world at large, the year that has passed has been fraught with many events and changes of the deepest interest. War has been waged, pestilence has made its deadly presence felt, famine and destitution is staring thousands in the face and the failure of crops in Europe has entailed a great amount of suffering. We in Canada are enjoying a very fair degree of prosperity, although the crops of the past year have not turned out as large as expected, still, when we think of the position of other lands, we have no cause to complain, but rather, we should be thankful for the measure we have received. The retrospect of the past year is a deeply interesting one, and one which is deserving of greater attention than our limited space will allow us to bestow on it. We wish our many patrons A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

WHO TO VOTE FOR.

It will be seen by reference to another column that Mr. William Cameron has consented to run for the Reeveship of Eldon, and we are sure, if elected he will make a very efficient Reeve. Being a gentleman of considerable ability and one who has had a large experience in municipal matters, we feel safe in asking the support of the ratepayers on his behalf. As will be seen by his address, he will not only endeavor to bring about such reforms as will place our Township on an equal footing with other Townships in the County, but he will also endeavor to lessen our taxes and at the same time maintain our roads and other public improvements in a more efficient condition than we at present enjoy. We feel, in supporting Mr. Cameron, that he will do his utmost in the service of the Township, and we ask all ratepayers who are desirous of inaugurating a new state of affairs to give him their hearty vote and influence. We hope to see Mr. Cameron returned at the head of the poll, on Monday next, by a large majority, and all those who have the welfare of the Township at heart will turn out early and VOTE FOR CAMERON!

Mark your ballots for McAlpine for Deputy-Reeve, and for McIntyre, McEachern and McRae for Councillors.

THEY EXPLAIN.

At the nominations on Monday last Mr. Carmichael rose to explain a number of questions in relation to township matters which were put to him, but after vainly essaying to do so he gave it up. In fact his speech, if such it could be called, was nothing more than a tirade of abuse against "the miserable little sheet published in this village." We fully appreciate Mr. Carmichael's kindness in bringing us thus prominently before the ratepayers, but we are completely at a loss to know what charges were brought against him by THE ADVOCATE. If he can point out to us one instance in which THE ADVOCATE has ever brought a charge against him, we are willing to allow we have wronged him. Although we have not done anything which could call for the amount of abuse we received both

from Mr. Carmichael and Mr. Ashman we have no doubt but we have earned their intense displeasure. We have placed before the ratepayers the fact that they were both the most incompetent of men, and now the electors have had a chance to see for themselves that our statement was correct. A man who boasts that he has occupied a seat at the council board for the past 17 or 18 years, as Mr. Carmichael has done, and yet cannot answer a few simple questions in reference to the ordinary business of the township, is, to say the least, to be pitied; it certainly shows a most intense degree of stupidity and incapacity, so much so, that we are forced to ask, in what does this man's merits consist? Surely not in his intellectual or administrative abilities, as we have seen that he is entirely incapable of exercising either. The lamentable display of ignorance made by him at the nomination must strike everyone as being proof positive that he has mistaken his abilities, and it would have been better for the township of Eldon to-day had it discarded his valuable services years ago. Mr. Carmichael may have done his best, but if what he has done is the best he can do, it is about time we gave someone else a chance of doing better. Surely things could not be managed worse than they have been, and we can safely assert that no township council in the Province has its business conducted in such a slovenly manner as the township of Eldon. That this is the case we would ask any of our readers to be present at a session of the township council and see for themselves the manner in which that august body is conducted. The Clerk, we are told, is the council, and we have no doubt of it; in his absence the business of the council comes to a standstill, simply because the members themselves do not know anything about it. We have tried repeatedly to report the proceedings of the council, but although the most desperate efforts on our part have been made we have signally failed. It is simply impossible to understand the manner in which the business is done. Now, Mr. Carmichael is not entirely responsible for this, but as the head of the council it is his duty to see that things are done in a proper and lawful manner.

The remark made by Mr. Carmichael that "charges brought by us against the township could not be sustained," calls for a little attention. We have dared to criticise the actions of the council in more matters than one, and some of them have not been so pleasing to Mr. Carmichael as they might be, nor did we intend they should. We told nothing but the truth and every word we are prepared to prove. We have no doubt Mr. Carmichael is a deeply injured man, according to his own remarks, but as the nature of his grievances were too profound for the public ear, the ratepayers were not informed what they were. Mr. Ashman also favored THE ADVOCATE with a few gentle and insinuating remarks, in the course of his few senseless and rambling remarks. He, also, told the ratepayers we had made "charges against the council we could not substantiate," but what those assertions were we failed to find out. Mr. Ashman fairly eclipsed himself as a speaker, and the profundity of his remarks was only equalled by his supreme stupidity and ignorance. The volume of information obtained from him by the ratepayers will furnish them with ample food for reflection during the coming week, and if they can find anything in it after the most careful thought it is something more than we can. In fact Mr. Ashman confined himself principally to THE ADVOCATE and, we also tender him our thanks. We were never favorites of Mr. Ashman's and this kindly recognition of our services took us so completely by surprise, that we are at a loss to know what to attribute this sudden revolution to. Is it because we approved of the road job done on the Mariposa town line last fall, or, because we suggested that when the snow and frost were on the ground was not a good time for performing road work, for which the money was granted months before? We are anxious to know. We hardly think this friendship can be sincere.

That both Mr. Ashman and Mr. Carmichael will be elected to stay at home we feel sure, and we cannot say that we will be pleased at the change. Mr. Ashman has been known to boast that he could even carry the township vote for the Reeveship, but we think that the coming election and the recent display of his talents, will dissipate any hope he may have entertained in that direction. In fact we think it the greatest presumption on the part of Mr. Ashman even to aspire to the Deputy-Reeveship this year after the exhibition he has made of himself.

NOMINATIONS.

TOWNSHIP OF ELTON.

On Monday last the nominations for Municipal Officers took place in the Town Hall, Woodville, Mr. Geo. W. Millar, Township Clerk, acting as returning officer, when the following candidates were nominated:

FOR REEVE.

Mr. Archibald Carmichael, proposed by Mr. Eachern McEachern, seconded by Mr. Donald McIntyre.

Mr. Wm. McKenzie, proposed by Mr. Peter McAlpine, seconded by Mr. Arch. McArthur.

Mr. Wm. Cameron, proposed by Mr. John Jamieson, seconded by Mr. Hugh McCuaig.

Mr. Arch. Campbell, proposed by Dr. McKay, seconded by Mr. Eachern H. McEachern.

FOR DEPUTY-REEVE.

Mr. Wm. Ashman, proposed by Mr. Robt. Graham, seconded by Mr. E. H. McEachern.

Mr. Peter McAlpine, proposed by Mr. Alex. McKenzie, seconded by Mr. Thomas Munro.

Dr. McKay, proposed by Mr. Arch. Carmichael, seconded by Mr. Eachern H. McEachern.

FOR COUNCILLORS.

Mr. Donald McIntyre, proposed by Mr. John Kirkland, seconded by Mr. Andrew McIntyre.

Mr. Eachern D. McEachern, proposed by Mr. Arch. McArthur, seconded by Mr. Colia McMillan.

Mr. Peter R. McEachern, proposed by Mr. Wm. Ross, seconded by Mr. George Dains.

Mr. Hugh McCuaig, proposed by Mr. John Jamieson, seconded by Mr. Sam. Cameron.

Mr. John Nicholls, proposed by Mr. John Merry, seconded by Mr. Peter McAlpine.

Mr. Colin McRae, proposed by Mr. Arch. Campbell, seconded by Mr. E. H. McEachern.

Mr. Wm. McKee, proposed by Mr. Alex. McDonald, seconded by Mr. E. J. McEachern.

Mr. Colin McMillan, Palestine, proposed by Mr. Peter McAlpine, seconded by Mr. Arch. Campbell.

Mr. Jas. A. Mitchell, proposed by Mr. Robt. Graham, seconded by Mr. John Jamieson.

Mr. Alex. McDonald, proposed by Mr. Alex. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Wm. McKee.

Mr. Robt. Armstrong, proposed by Mr. John Jamieson, seconded by Dr. McKay.

Mr. Arch. Carmichael being the first speaker called on, said he was glad to see so many respectable electors present. It showed that they took an interest in the affairs of the Township. He was glad to see so many nominations as it would give the electors a chance to choose the best men. Charges had been brought against the retiring Council and he was ready to answer any and all of them if somebody would only stand up and name them. The position of Reeve was not a very enticing one to run for, and he had intended staying at home this election but his friends persuaded him to allow himself to be nominated. He presumed a large number of the ratepayers got that "miserable little sheet, printed at Woodville," which had brought the charges against the Council, well, he defied the editor or any one else to get up and charge them to his face. He was ready prepared to answer any question in regard to Township matters. (A voice—"How do we stand in the County?") Mr. Carmichael was armed with a statement from the County Clerk and a large number of "Reports of the County Council," but, although the Clerk, Treasurer and Deputy-Reeve repeatedly came to his assistance he got so completely muddled that it was impossible to make head or tail of what he was trying to say. At one time he stated that our County Rate for last year was \$37,500, but on being corrected by the Treasurer he gave it as \$3,625 50, with a balance due the county of \$1,024. (A voice—"Why was the County Rate not paid?") The reason the County Rate had not been paid was that a portion of the taxes had not yet been collected, and the times had been

so hard and money so scarce that the electors had a hard time to get their bread much less their taxes, and he would not blame them for being lenient.

It came out in course of a good deal of palaver that the taxes uncollected only amounted to between one or two hundred dollars, while the balance due the County was over ten hundred. Although the electors demanded to know where the money had gone, Mr. Carmichael could or would not give a satisfactory answer, and so amidst a great deal of confusion he was allowed to go to his seat, the only intelligent answer he could give to all questions asked him in regard to the finances of the Township being "ask the Treasurer."

Considerable discussion arose as to who should be the next speaker, a majority of the electors contending that the old Council should speak first, and give an account of their stewardship, and then let the new candidates express their opinions, but they were overruled by the Clerk—who acted as chairman—who said he would call on the candidates as they were nominated.

Mr. Wm. McKenzie, being the next in rotation, came forward and stated that it was at the solicitation of a large number of friends that he had allowed himself to be nominated as a candidate for Reeve. He was not prepared to make any charges against the retiring Council, only he thought the affairs of the Township had been badly managed. The position he took was that if the electors were not satisfied with their present representatives, by all means let them choose new ones, and in doing so be sure and choose the best men. If elected he would strive to do his duty to the Township. On being asked if he would be in favor of changing the present Clerk and Treasurer, Mr. McKenzie said that as long as they performed their duties satisfactorily he would not, but if, on the contrary, he found they were not satisfactorily performed he would certainly be in favour of a change.

Mr. McKenzie, and in fact Mr. Carmichael and all the other speakers were asked a number of questions in regard to the Nipissing Railway bond, but the accounts given were so confused that it was almost impossible to make anything out of them. However, as near as we could ascertain from the several speakers, it appears that in 1876 the Eldon Township Council held a bond against the Nipissing Railway for \$6000. Having promised the Township First Preferential Bonds in exchange for this, and failing to do so, an action was entered against the Company to compel them to fulfil their agreement, but the Township was defeated and saddled with \$700 costs. It therefore became necessary to either sell the bond or impose an extra tax on the ratepayers, and the Council deciding to adopt the former plan Messrs. McKenzie and Carmichael were appointed to negotiate the sale. They finally disposed of the bond to Mr. Wm. Gooderham, for \$3000, on condition that he pay the Company's costs in the late suit. Mr. Carmichael received the cheque for the \$3000, the money was brought home and lent out on mortgages all over the Township, and the costs left unpaid until the spring of this year, when a writ was served on the Clerk and Reeve and the money paid out of last year's taxes. The matter was allowed to rest in this manner until this summer sometime when Mr. Armstrong brought in a motion to place the mortgages in the Bank as a sinking fund, where they lie at present.

Mr. McKenzie said he was in favor of adopting the system now in vogue in the County of York, of having the assessment done in the fall of the year, and not in the spring, as at present. By doing so the Collector would be enabled to return his roll before the first of January in each year, and not have it running on till September and October, and even like the present year, the end of December. He would also strive, if elected, to have all the road work done before the end of June, or not later than the first of September.

Mr. Wm. Ashman again appeared, soliciting their votes as Deputy Reeve. He thought the electors were satisfied with the present Council. Had heard several complaints in the newspaper and otherwise, but they could not be substantiated. He made a vain attempt to explain what had become of the money appropriated by the County for roads, but nothing satisfactory to the ratepayers could be elicited from his rambling remarks, and he was allowed to sit down without being cross-examined.

Mr. Peter McAlpine came before them as a candidate for the office of Deputy-Reeve, at the solicitation of a number of influential ratepayers. If elected he would serve the Township as he had done in the past, to the best of his ability.

Mr. Wm. Cameron said that he appeared before the electors of Eldon for the first time as a solicitor of their suffrages, and he hoped that they would

put on their gloves to handle him, as the dressing the retiring gentlemen had got, had quite scared him. However, he thought it was but right that an accomplished of them, and he was glad to see so many intelligent ratepayers present, some of whom he had the pleasure of knowing, but the great majority were strangers to him. If elected to the responsible position of Reeve he would strive to fill it with equal honour to himself and credit to them, and as their representative at the County Council would do his utmost to uphold the dignity and credit of the Township of Eldon. In regard to the manner in which road monies were spent, he strongly condemned the principle of Councillors employing themselves as Commissioners, and he would use his influence against the practice. He was in favor of making the grants smaller, and by paying less salaries to do more real repairing to our public highways. If the electors of this Township wished him for their representative he would request them to turn out and work, and by giving him a large majority, show that they were in earnest. But by all means let every elector poll his vote, and so prove that he is interested in the manner in which the Township affairs are managed.

Mr. Archibald Campbell, on being called on, thanked his mover and second, but said with their permission he would withdraw. He then reviewed the manner in which the Township affairs had been conducted for the last four or five years, proving by facts and figures that the grossest mismanagement had prevailed in almost every department. Money was squandered, officials paid big salaries, road jobs were let, and the monies went into the pockets of the Commissioners or their relations, and the work was so poorly done that it might just as well have been left alone. He claimed that prior to the year 1876 there had always been a surplus in the Treasury, but this year we find ourselves almost bankrupt, our County Rate not yet paid, and the Treasury almost dry. He claimed that the way in which road work was done throughout the Township was a disgrace, and he felt confident that the electors would not submit to it another year, but would elect a new set of men to govern their affairs. He pointed out several instances in which money had been needlessly squandered, and especially the \$50 just paid for Messrs. Carmichael and Ashman to go to Ottawa. He thought that was the greatest piece of extravagance ever heard of; besides no motion had been passed at the Council authorizing the expenditure. If those gentlemen wanted a trip to Ottawa the ratepayers had no right to pay for it. He hoped that the electors would turn out to a man and choose new and good representatives.

Messrs. Wm. McKee, and Colin McMillan declined running, as did also Mr. Robt. Armstrong, of Kirkfield. Of all the old Council Mr. Armstrong is the one the electors are the most indebted to. He it was who brought in the by-law to abolish the Wards, and so bring all the Candidates together; and he also had gathered together the mortgages, etc., and had the Treasurer deposit them in a bank towards a sinking fund to pay off our railway debentures. He will be missed from the Council Board, but we hope the electors will try and choose others equally as good.

Several other speakers addressed the meeting, but it was simply going over the old ground again and again, and the proceedings were adjourned until next Monday, when we hope to see every elector turn out and cast his vote for economy and less taxation, and the only certain way to gain it is to elect new Reeves.

POLICE TRUSTEES.

Messrs. Rod. Campbell, Peter McSweyn and W. C. White were elect Commissioners for the Police Village of Woodville, by acclamation.

OTHER PLACES.

THORAH.

For Reeve.—Messrs. G. F. Bruce and C. Galloway.
For Deputy-Reeve.—Messrs. C. Thompson and J. Chalmers.

The following Councillors were elected by acclamation.—Messrs. Wm. Wescott, Alex. McRae and Jas. Donnell.

BEXLEY.

For Reeve.—Mr. Nelson Hesslip, by acclamation.
For Councillors.—Messrs. Peter Cameron, W. H. Corson, A. H. Carl, John King, W. Peel, J. R. Moore and Thos. Winter.

BROCK.

For Reeve.—Messrs. Gillespie and Shier.
First Deputy.—Mr. Cunningham, by acclamation.
Second Deputy.—Messrs. Brothour and Amey.

Councillors.—Messrs. St. John, Ryan, McPhaden.

CANNINGTON.

Reeve.—Messrs. J. Sharp and A. McKay.
Councillors.—Messrs. Wesley Brandon, D. C. McLean, J. Coxworth, A. Dobson, W. Donalds, J. S. Whetler.