

The Acton Free Press.

TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 21, 1885.

THEIR PLATFORM.

The position of Messrs. Henderson, Fyfe and Cameron, on the cemetery question, is clearly set forth in another column. Their platform, as there laid down, is a reasonable and commendable one, and should present itself as satisfactory to electors generally. The above candidates are gentlemen of well-known integrity and honesty of purpose. They state in a very concise and lucid manner what they intend to do if elected, and we have every confidence that they will leave no stone unturned in conscientiously fulfilling their promises.

MUNICIPAL NOMINATIONS.

Mr. W. H. Storey Re-elected Reeve by Acclamation.

THE COUNCILLORS.

At twelve o'clock, noon, on Monday the raters interested in the election of a council to superintend affairs connected with the municipality of Acton, for the ensuing year, assembled in the town hall to nominate candidates for the position. The nominations were not so liberal in number as has frequently been the case on former occasions, the desire apparently being to confine the motions to gentlemen suitable for the position, and likely to stand.

As we predicted some time ago the election will turn on the cemetery matter, and this was clearly shown by the nominations. Except in the case of the Reeve—ho being elected by acclamation—the candidates presented were put forth either as for or against the cemetery, as the matter at present stands. Six candidates are in the field for councillors. Only four can be elected. One or two of the six are opposed to the cemetery. It is clearly the duty of the raters to nominate candidates favorable to the cemetery, and this we strongly hope the electors will do.

It was evident from the appearance of things in general that a stormy meeting was anticipated. A full hall showed this, but although some sharp things were said and some unfair personal references made, altogether the meeting passed off very satisfactorily. The expenditures of the village for the year were clearly set forth, explanations fully given, and the cemetery matter thoroughly ventilated, from every stand-point. A synopsis of the speeches will be found elsewhere. Owing to the length of the principal ones it is impossible in our limited space to give them *verbatim*.

The nominations were as follows:

FOR REEVE.

W. H. STOREY.—Nominated by Robt. Rose, seconded by Wm. Hemstreet. Elected by acclamation.

FOR COUNCILLORS.

JOHN CAMERON.—Nominated by W. Hemstreet, seconded by Robt. Royce.

Wm. HEMSTREET.—Nominated by Thos. Lam, seconded by W. H. Storey. Mr. Hemstreet withdrew.

JOS. FYFE.—Nominated by Wm. Hemstreet, seconded by Robt. Royce.

D. HENDERSON.—Nominated by W. H. Storey, seconded by Thos. Easton.

Wm. ISMOND.—Nominated by W. Allan, seconded by David Matson.

J. B. PEARSON.—Nominated by C. T. Hill, seconded by D. Kennedy.

THOS. C. MOORE.—Nominated by Jos. Anderson, seconded by R. Cook.

FOR REEVE.—W. H. Storey.

FOR COUNCILLORS.—J. Cameron, J. Fyfe, D. Henderson, W. Ismond, Thos. C. Moore and J. B. Pearson.

At the expiration of the hour Mr. Robt. Royce was moved to the chair. He thanked the meeting for the honor thus conferred. Hoped "there would be no necessity for calling any one present to order, but that the speakers and hearers would forbear with each other and all part good friends.

Mr. Storey, Reeve, was the first called to address the audience. He wished those present the compliments of the season. He didn't covet the position to which he had just been elected for the seventh or eighth time, but thought the people had given evidences that his object in the past had been to serve the people and advance their interests in the best possible manner. He interpreted his re-election as an endorsement by the people of his course in connection with the new cemetery. The people should meet in the discussion of public affairs as neighbors desiring to live peacefully with each other. Referred to the discussion in the Free Press. Some kind and some miserable things had been said. He asserted that he had no connection whatever with the *non de plume* letters. He didn't want it to go forth that he bore any enmity to anyone, even to his enemies, in this matter. Had done his whole duty to Acton, and there was no movement for the public good in which he did not interest himself. Spoke of the deplorable death during the year of notable citizens, particularly Mr. C. S. Smith, with whom he had sat at the council for years; Messrs. R. Little, Adam Dixon, and Abram Matthews. Explained the high county rate this year caused by county bridges and railway debtors fund. Coming down to our local affairs he remarked that the taxes this year were high, a thing no ratepayer would deny. He found that if we could effect public improvements, make new roads and build new sidewalks without money, the council would always be popular. But, the councilors couldn't do without money. The people who did most grumbling were those who paid least taxes. When the council surveyed the village for necessary repairs and improvements in the spring they were encountered on all sides by citizens who held favors to ask, but it was a different matter when the taxes were to be paid. During the year they had built one-new sidewalk throughout the village. This had cost a lot of money, but next year the expenditure would be much less, for only repairing would have to be done. The subject was the great source of financial trouble and took the bulk of the taxes, but it was to be sustained, and kept up well. Referred to the assertion contained in the

letter of W. Allan a couple of weeks ago that people couldn't be induced to settle here. Asked if it was a fact that Acton had made itself repugnant to outsiders. The council had kept the village clean, tidy and attractive. This took money, but didn't it pay? Acton was looked upon by other people as a model town, and desirable as a place of residence. Gave as an instance that Acton's property was not depreciating in value that a few years ago the whole of Young's survey was sold for \$600. To-day it is worth an average of \$800 a lot, and selling at those figures or worth a total of \$4,800. Was property depreciating? No. And shame on the men who were endeavoring to run-down and injure the place. Mr. Storey had a word against the payment of Commissions. Ismond of his 20 cents an hour. Didn't think he should be expected to spend one or two months of his time for nothing. Mr. Ismond may not have acted wisely, but he for one would accept one-fifth of the responsibility for voting the twenty cents per hour. He referred to the cemetery matter. Said in this connection the council of 1885 was the most disagreeable one he ever sat in, and didn't intend to sit with such an one the coming year. Reviewed the cemetery matter, with all the incidents of opposition, threats and bickerings connected with it. Came to the conclusion that the people who opposed it were the people who never offered a plan for progressive measures, but always butted against other's schemes. Explained the acquisition of the 15 acres presented by Dr. McGarvin, and considered the council was acting in the very best interests of the people in accepting it. Said he felt keenly on this question, and if the people would elect men to support it, they would carry it to a successful termination.

Mr. Henderson, chairman of the committee on finance, would not detain the meeting for any length of time. Showed that the council commenced the year with no money in the treasury. He gave an itemized report of each account to date, showing the expenditures by the village itself during the year with the totals as follows: Charities, \$27; Town hall, including fitting up of school room, \$60; Contingencies, \$961.50; Printing, including newspaper, \$273.80; and had an unpaid account of \$45. Referred to the large amount raised for school purposes, and the difficulty for town hall debtors. The cemetery committee were working in the people's interest, and felt confident that the good sense of the people would next Monday elect a council favorable to the cemetery. Was satisfied that next year would realize a much lower rate of taxation.

Mr. C. T. Hill supported Mr. Pearson because he thought him a good man for the position. Said the cemetery gift was a humbug.

Dr. McGarvin took the platform to say something on the question, but everybody in the audience seemed to want to talk at the same time, and the meeting broke up in disorder about 5 p.m.

man in our midst and Acton should be proud of him. Was in sympathy with the cemetery question. What could we do without the new cemetery? Every ratepayer should be in favor of it and all should unite in securing it.

Mr. Hemstreet said he was also proud to be the seconder of Robt. Storey's nomination. Supported the Cemetery Committee.

Mr. Henderson appeared again to reply to the references of Mr. Pearson to himself as chairman of Finance Committee. Mr. Pearson gives me credit of being a good financier; but charged me with financing my own interests. Now, I hurl back the mean, contemptible insinuation in his face, and challenge anyone to show that I have ever profited from the finances of the corporation to the value of one cent. Nothing is concealed in that matter, everyone can investigate. Instead of profiting, my connection with the finance committee has been to me an important loss. During the year, as manager of Acton Banking Co., I have carried from \$700 to \$1700 to the corporation's indebtedness, and never charged one cent of interest therefor. The treasurer has never drawn a cheque on me but what it was honored, even with above amount standing to the village's debit. I have done work in the people's interest and have never yet voted to protect myself.

Spoke at some length on the cemetery question. He considered that after a residence of ten years or more in Acton he was pretty well acquainted with what the people wanted, and was endeavoring to carry out their wishes. The committee felt justified in not taking further action until the people had pronounced upon their past action, particularly when people thought a suit was pending, and when they had been led to think this from the words of members of the council. Of course they could have forced the matter through, but were not disposed to do force work.

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Mr. John A. Shannon:

"Excelling Teacher.—For nearly two years past pleasant and profitable relations have existed between us, as teacher and pupils, and we take an opportunity of expressing to you the fact, that we have highly appreciated that punctual, obedient, and docile class, and may be proud to have discharged the important duty of conducting our school. While we regret exceedingly that you could not remain with us longer, we all join in wishing you abundant success in your new profession."

In order that you may not in your voyage through life forget us, we ask you to accept as a memento, this gold pendant which express to a very limited extent, the respect in which we have held you as our teacher.

Signed in behalf of your scholars,

J. WILSON JR.

Bannockburn, Dec. 23rd, 1885.

ELABORATE PRESENTS

To Rev. D. B. Cameron, late pastor of Knox Church, Acton.

BY HIS FRIENDS.

Last evening Rev. D. B. Cameron, late pastor of Knox Church, Acton, was made the recipient at the hands of his friends of a most handsome and beautiful present. It was an elaborate silver service of very pretty and attractive design, and included tray, afternoon and evening tea sets, coffee pot, water urn, cream pitcher, sugar and slop bowls, and spoon receiver. On the tray was the inscription:

PRESENTED TO
REV. D. B. CAMERON,
AN AESTHETIC TOKEN OF ESTEEM,
BY HIS FRIENDS,
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON,
DECEMBER, 1885.

At the same time Miss Cameron was presented with a beautiful silver cake basket and an epoxide of silver and crystal of delicate design. Rev. Mr. Cameron replied in appropriate terms on behalf of himself and Miss Cameron.

Presentation.

At the conclusion of the examination exercises at Bannockburn school last Wednesday the following address was presented to Mr. J. A. Shannon, late teacher there, accompanied by a beautiful inkstand and gold pen:

To Mr. John A. Shannon:

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New Advertisements

M. MITCHELL,
Solicitor, Conveyancer, &c.
Office—First door west of the *Advertiser*, Main street, Milton. Money to loan at 6 per cent.

NOMINATIONS ELSEWHERE.

Guelph—Mayor—Major Stephenson, Howard, Walker.

Toronto—W. H. Howland, Mayor Manning.

Hamilton—Ald. Henry, Carstellan, Alex. John Marshall, Joshua Norris.

Brantford—Old council elected by acclimation.

Nassauvaya—Reeve, James, Macneill, acclamation; Deputies: David Winstone, acclamation. Concillors: Alex. Bell, P. Gould, David Hetheron, Joseph Little, John Marshall, Joshua Norris.

Erin—Township—Reeve, J. Burt; First Deputy, J. Kirkwood; second Deputy, George Robinson; Concillors: P. McGill and Thos. Totter.

Georgetown—Reeve, Wm. McLeod.

Erin—Reeve, T. Carberry.

Oakville—Mayor, George Andrews.

Burlington—Reeve, R. G. Baxter.

Milton—Reeve, J. H. McCollum.

Pro Bono Publico.

To the Editor of THE FREE PRESS.

DEAR SIR.—As your correspondent, "Pro Bono Publico," has only as yet a mystery of whom W. Allan is, after some time's residence in Acton, I will defer answering the verbose part of his letter until some more convenient opportunity offers. I would like him to answer the following questions, which will interest the inhabitants of this "gen of a village" more than pretty personalities:—First, what "has D. P." to say, and say truly, and what has he to show as to what he and his colleagues have done with the \$1750 received from the municipal-loan fund? What have they done with a like sum from the clergy reserve fund? and what have they done with all the taxes levied during the past 5 years of incorporation? Never mind who W. Allan is. But what has been done with the amount voted for the cemetery? How judiciously has it been expended? How about the \$12,000 less assessed for 1885 than for 1884? Whose property had had the benefit, and whose property has not been assessed at all? Does not "P. B. P." know that certain properties in the village have been assessed at far below their proper value? And who was the clever commissioner who stuck over \$1200 in plain walls, and made that delightful mud puddle from the bridge to the railway track on Main street? Do tell! Do kindly dispel the mistiness hanging over your *non de plume* and appear over your own name, if you have sufficient nerve to do so. With all your mistiness, your identity is perfectly known to me, being one of the triplets.

Again thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your valuable space.

I remain yours truly,

W. ALLAN.

Acton, December 20th, 1885.

Mr. Allan knew from our statement last week that "Pro Bono Publico" would not be allowed to answer his questions in these columns, because the limit of time for the controversy expires with this issue. It was useless, then, for him to propound them. The most of the questions were referred to and answered on nomination day, and those which were not will easily be answered to the satisfaction of any one taking sufficient interest in them to refer to the *Advertiser's* books.

As a master of justice to the members of the Council we would state positively that throughout the controversy in these columns during the past two months, not a single member of the Council has written any one of the letters which have appeared in the Free Press over anonymous signatures.

Mr. Royce, chairman, explained that he had considered it an honor to have the privilege of nominating Mr. Storey for Reeve. He was proud that we had such a

THE FASHIONABLE WEST END GUELPH.

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We have pleasure in stating that our stock for the season's trade surpasses in extensive variety and choice selection anything we have ever formerly laid before our customers.

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In this department no house here can successfully compete with us in point of variety, real sterling value, and downright cheapness.

Ladies who are in the habit of buying elsewhere are not aware of the inducements we offer in this department to pur-

chasers. Inspection invited.

BUCHAM & CO.

DRESS GOODS.

This department is a large one with us, and always presents a choice of really desirable goods to select from seldom met with even in the largest cities.

Ladies will do well before buy-

ing to visit our Establishment, and look through, compare prices, &c., &c.

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Fashionable West End Dress

Mantua and Millinery

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Greatest Bargains

Ever offered in Guelph.

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Gem Rings Chains

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