



McGuffin, R. A. Lyon and McKindsay. Nays—Messrs. Bastedo and McCallum.

"Mr. Martin abstained from voting and immediately afterwards tendered his resignation for the North Ward, which was accepted."

The preliminary skirmishes were over and the contract had been let to Joseph Martin who had not only donated the land but had also submitted the lowest price. His resignation from council cleared the way for his acceptance of a contract with the municipality.

Before June had run its course the project was being rushed ahead. Carpenters and stone cutters pressed the work, with the stone and timber being rapidly readied.

Within a month the basement storey was finished and the form of the lock-up for the disorderlies was taking shape. "The little apertures on each side for light will afford but a dismal prospect for the 'jolly' inmates," the Champion recorded.

As the cooler days of fall descended, however, the municipal scene became more heated.

In September the opening volleys of the dispute that was to continue to the year-end, were fired during the tabling of the annual estimates. The question of including \$1,000 for payment of the new market house was the tinder that led to hours of heated discussion, refusals to attend meetings and motions of censure.

"The minority consisting of Councillors Watson, McCallum and Bastedo contended the course taken by the majority of the Council in regard to erection of the market house was illegal, as they should have submitted the question to the vote of the ratepayers. They agreed strenuously against paying for the market house unless such payment was decided by a vote of the people. A great amount of personal recrimination took place between Mr. McKindsay and the opposition. Mr. Watson and the Mayor had also a tilt. Mr. Whyte endeavored to keep peace among them, but with little success.

"When the Council was about to go into committee of the whole on the by-law of supplies, Dr. Freeman made his appearance at 12.10 a.m. When in committee of the whole the opposition left the room

Contract let to Joseph Martin

and the committee, being without a quorum, they adjourned sine die."

A Saturday evening meeting was convened in early October of 1865 and more "spirited debate" took place with a "great deal of latitude taken by both sides" in discussing the question of putting the \$1,000 in the estimates. The item was finally passed, however, and the estimates adopted.

The opposition was not finished though, and a week later when the minutes of the previous meeting came up for the adoption another long discussion followed on the legality of the previous meeting's motion. A motion was presented declaring the action of the former meeting illegal, and it was finally put and lost.

Recognizing the continuing dispute, the editor of The Champion called for a public meeting of ratepayers to discuss the matter. "If it is considered advisable to appeal to the people it will take nearly the remainder of the year to legalize the by-law. If anything is to be done in the matter, it were well that it were done quickly".

The council meeting of October 23, 1865 failed to convene "on account of the want of a quorum. Seven of the councillors were present but the last two did not appear until the majority of the former five had left".

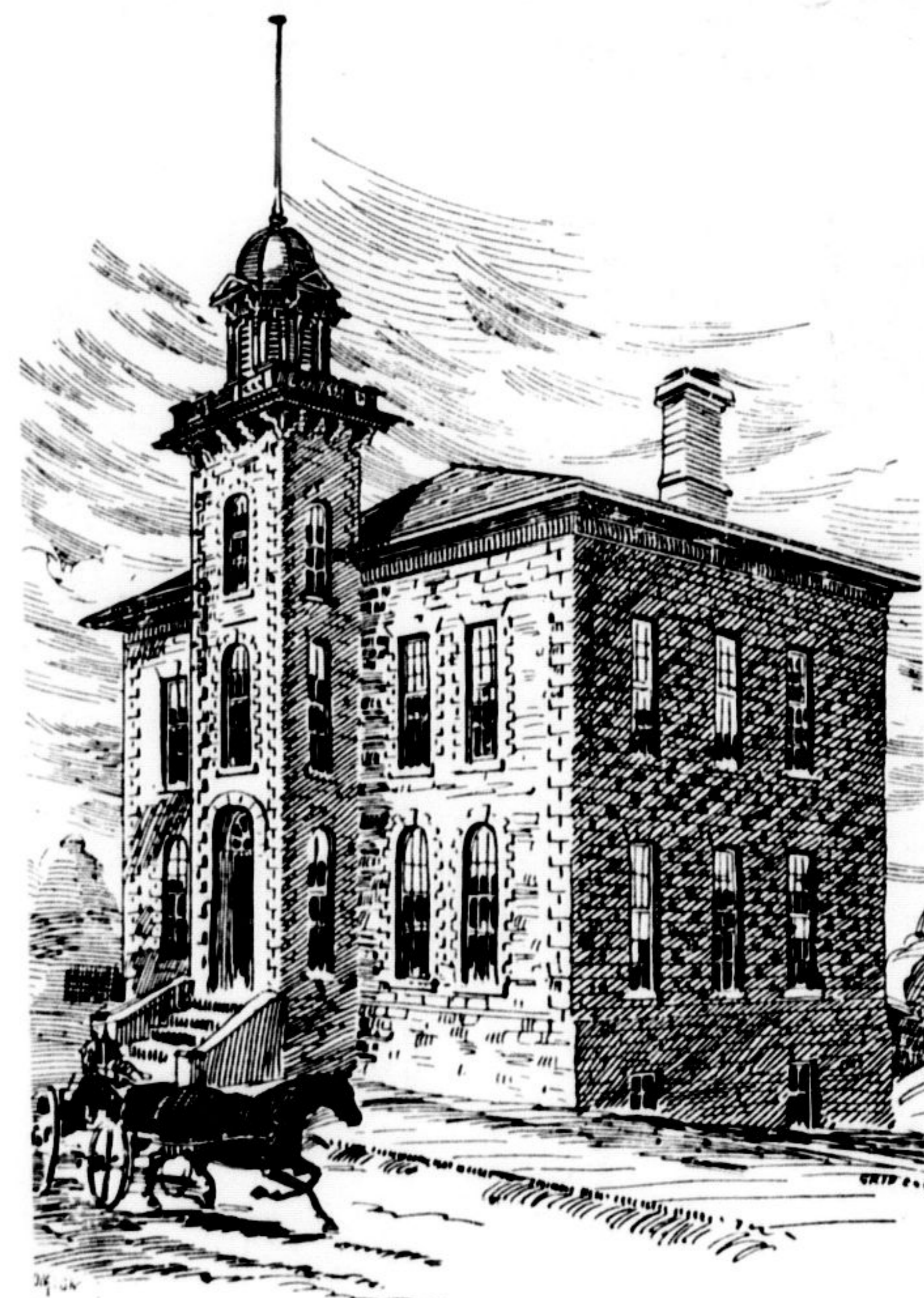
The "count out" continued, scuttling two more meetings of the council for lack of a quorum.

Construction of a drain in front of the new market house and town hall drew considerable attention when the council finally mustered a quorum for a meeting late in November. It was pointed out the drain had been planned for some time and was not done for the benefit of the new building.

As the discussion wore on the mayor excused himself from the meeting "stating that the state of his health prevented him from having the pleasure of sitting with them the remainder of the evening".

When the council resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the proposed market by-law, Messrs. Watson, Bastedo and McCallum rose and left the meeting without a quorum. The Mayor, shortly after, returned and the committee resumed, passing two readings of the Market By-law. Pleased with their success the council also passed a vote of censure on those gentlemen who had left the council.

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A feature on the Town of Milton appeared in The Globe newspaper in 1899, accompanied by this line cut engraving of the Town Hall as it appeared at the time. The outdoor front steps and the intricately designed tower were still there then, but the addition at the rear of the Town Hall was not shown. Although the exterior has changed little since this drawing was made, the interior has seen extensive renovations during the past year. Everyone is invited to the "open house" and dedication of the new fountain court this Sunday afternoon.

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