

DISTRICT NO. 3.

County Nominations.

In response to the call of Returning Officer Russell, quite a number of rate-payers of the Division assembled in the Town Hall on Monday to nominate candidates for the two positions. Bentinck was very much in evidence, as it was expected the famous bridge on its western boundary would prove the storm centre of the occasion. Bentinck this time furnishes two candidates, Brigham and Ries, Glenelg sticks to Binnie, and Durham to McKinnon.

At the close of the hour, Mr. Russell had the following nominations: Chas. McKinnon by John McDonald and Chas. Lawrence.

Samuel Dickson, by Donald McDougall and Duncan McKinnon.

Geo. Ries, by Jas. Patterson and Duncan McKinnon.

H. Brigham, by S. Petherbrough and Jas. Martin.

Geo. Binnie, by Wm. Calder and W. J. Young.

Wm. Laidlaw, by Jas. Staples and Jas. Firth.

Wm. Calder, by Thos. G. Holt and E. T. McClocklin.

Dr. Jamieson, M. P., was made Chairman, and happily introduced the subject and the speakers remarking that the new system of which he approved had the effect of drawing more attention to County matters.

Mr. McKinnon first nominated, spoke first and entered into an explanation of the deficit, they found awaiting them when they assumed office in 1897, and claimed that meeting, this had affected their record adversely. He went into figures to show where they had effected savings, and read the jail surgeon's report which showed that an increased number of committals were being made thus adding to the expense. He thanked them for the past and asked them to place him in the front as before, promising his best efforts in their service. Questioned by H. Willis about the bridge he entered into an explanation showing that everything had been done in good faith, and read a letter he had received from the Deputy Reeve Devlin calling his attention to the matter.

Mr. Binnie entered upon a contrast between two years ago and now, showing how improved they were in material things. He claimed the new system was working well, and thought the sectional feeling would die out, and the Division come to be looked on as a unit. They had effected savings but he showed that more expense would soon be incurred for a new roof for the Court House, but as the administration of justice was expected to be less than usual the new expense would not be much felt. Of course if the House of Refuge went on, he pointed out that taxation would be slightly increased. On the merits of the House of Refuge, he was very doakful and claimed that less humiliating assistance was being rendered by the local method. He also handled the bridge matter, letters having passed between him and Reeve Dickson relative to the matter, which he claims shows the township was not slighted, though Reeve Dickson thinks otherwise. In answer to a query by W. Laidlaw as to how he would vote on House of Refuge question, he said he would be guided by the expressed wishes of his division. He asked their support once more, and promised to use the experience of 8 years in their service.

Reeve Dickson came next and entered into by-law 363, which he claimed worked well under the old system when municipal officers formed the Co. Council. He read Binnie's letter, over a sentence in which the misunderstanding arose, and another long letter to justify himself and his township in repudiating the \$667.09 charged against them by the County.

Mr. Ries came on next and in a breezy manner placed himself before the people. He was in the field to fight it out, and as Reeve Dickson had stolen his thunder, had little to say about the new bridge, as to the Crispin bridge, S of Hanover, knowing the locality thoroughly, he said that it would be a most unjust thing to ask Co. Grey to pay for it. He thought the expense of Council was not materially lessened from what it was under the old system. He would require a large majority of his division in favor of House of Refuge before he would vote for it.

Mr. Brigham had been spoken to by parties in all parts of the Division. He was pleased to hear they had been economical, but thought it possible they had been too much so, this in reference to the refusal of the poultry and volunteer grants, which he was inclined to favor, in the one case as a useful adjunct to agriculture, in the other from patriotic reasons.

Mr. Laidlaw thought expenditure enormous in connection with Co. Court matters, \$10 a day being required for this body while in session, besides the shameful expense of keeping litigants waiting a whole week sometimes. He was against a House of Refuge believing local municipalities could

better look after their own. The volunteers should be better paid than they were. He favored a change in the present system by which the Reeves of municipalities would form the Co. Council.

Mr. Calder thought there might be more detailed expenditure in connection with Co. Council matters. He also favored a council represented direct from the municipalities, as the present system had a tendency to run on political lines. He spoke out boldly in favor of a House of Refuge, showing what a trifle the average expense per ratepayer would be. He took exception to the promises of candidates to bind themselves to vote by their division, ignoring the possible opposite vote of the rest of the county.

McKinnon and Binnie being allowed a 2nd hearing, the former read a letter from Reeve Dickson, which showed that he was thoroughly acquainted with what was going on, but refused on principle. He justified his vote against the Poultry grant to O. Sound, while Durham and other places got none. He had as much respect for the volunteers as any one, but had objected to the grant owing to the desire to overtake the big deficit. He had moved himself that the Dominion House be memorialized to grant the 25c a day, but it was voted down. As had been his motion, in the interests of economy to do away with the December session.

Mr. Binnie was chairman of the committee which refused the grant and had to report the refusal. He subsequently voted for a \$500 grant which was defeated.

Dr. Jamieson had to leave during the meeting and the chair was occupied by Mr. C. Moffat, and as the hour was advanced and nobody thought of a vote of thanks to the speakers he appropriately thanked them.

NOTES.

So passed the 2nd nomination under the new system in Div. No. 3. There was a general sense of "dryness" about the proceedings which was slightly relieved at the close by a mild passage at arms between the two old commissioners, which had the appearance of "telling tales out of school."

He would be a bold man who would predict the winners from what he saw there, or even from what is known. Brigham expects and will get S. Bentinck pretty fully, a large slice of Hanover his former vote anyway in Durham, and perhaps a respectable showing in Glenelg. Ries is expected to take the North and West of Bentinck, and will get a few from Durham and possibly one or two in Glenelg. Binnie, the sole representative from Glenelg will draw largely therefrom, he takes a big vote in Durham and received a very generous support in Bentinck before. Mr. McKinnon will lead of course in Durham but his wide acquaintance and business relations in the two townships gives him a "pull" which may put him in the lead once more. It would not surprise us if the two old councillors should again be elected. Bentinck of course would feel this sorely, but there is no reason to fear even in that case that her interests would be neglected. Similarly many think it possible both Bentinck men may go in as Bentinck vote overtops Durham and Glenelg together.

By-law No. 363, so much talked of was the work of Mr. Gilbert McKechnie when Reeve of Durham. It dealt with the question of boundary bridges, and made provision for equivalent to municipalities with inland bridges like Durham when expenditure was made on boundary bridges. This has now been repealed we believe, the work being now under statute, which may mean a bad thing for Durham when she builds for herself in a few years two fine iron bridges across the Saugeen.

Somehow or other, (we may be dull,) County income and expenditure is much more vague than the councils below it, or the Parliaments above it. The man has yet to arise who will make County finances clear and popular. An annual expenditure of \$34000 is made. Some of this is controllable and some of it is not, but just what and where it all goes is not, as we said, clear. True the minutes are published, but so much appears there that the financial part is lost sight of. Wouldn't it be wise to publish a county financial statement as is done in all the municipalities before nomination day?

This House of Refuge or Home for aged poor. We regret to hear our public men oppose this scheme. It seems to us one of the advance movements of civilization, dictated first by humanitarian considerations, and then by sound administration, which surely can be secured, financial considerations also. The erection of the Home will cost probably, net, \$10000 and as this can be secured at low interest, and payments spread over 20 years the average amount for erection and maintenance to the ratepayers will not be more than 25c a year, some say half that. We hope all whom these lines will reach will throw the expense to the winds and vote for a home for those who in the race of life have become handicapped, and save them from receiving pauper aid amongst those who may have known them in better days. (A humiliating position.) The home will find employment suited to those who are able to assist themselves, and for those who are not let it not be said that we will enter the 20th century having no better place for our method to shield our aged poor than to herd them with criminals in the county jail! or dole out to them a pittance through a neighbor's hand.

"Age and Want, O! ill-matched pair."

DIVISION No. 4.

As was expected the old Commissioners are returned by acclamation, and Messrs. Allan and Schenk will be reckoned by many "lucky boys" to have the privilege of writing "C. C." to their names for two years more with the unanimous consent of their division a tribute to merit. See Holstein Correspondence.

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Town and Townships.

EGREMONT.

There are those who say that possibly the township may agree upon 5 officers in the same unanimous manner which would be a surprise but gratifying on the whole. However a contest is very probable, and in that event we hear mentioned as likely candidates, two David's, each of whom alone might slay their Goliath if 'tother were away. We refer to David McKelvey and David McIntyre, both of the 22nd concession. C. McInnis will make the reeveship contest lively should he decide to measure swords with the redoubtable "Pete"

GLENELG.

Apparently Reeve Staples is to get the compliment of an acclamation. This has been looked for. For the Council however, there will be a number of men to offer themselves for sacrifice. T. McFadden, an old and tried officer will surely be elected, and apparent complications in the north where Lamb and Hugh Baird are both reported in the field may elect the 3 old councillors: Williams, Firth and McMillan. Arrowsmith may again seek to serve his township, and without doubt Peter McInnis is coming out and with such a grist the result is unguessable.

NORMANBY.

Reeve Morice is to have an English-speaking opponent in Forbes, but it Bobs hold on Neustadt and elsewhere is as good as before, Forbes is out, unless indeed, Koeing, an old reeve, slips in between and puts both out.

BENTINCK.

Mr. Jacklyn, it is alleged will oppose Reeve Dickson, and will be a doughty and worthy opponent. "Sam," as his friends call him, did not make a good showing at the County nomination, but he has proved a strong township man. For the council there will be aspirants enough.

DURHAM.

The Mayorship is still a dark horse. If Reeve Sparling would see his way to accept it, there would be few to oppose we fancy. A decided desire exists to see Gilbert McKechnie at the council table, and if he decided to stand for Mayor would likely have no opposition. The councillors may be drawn from any part of the town, and as Parker, Brown and Kinzie are retiring we believe, couldn't we have the remaining 6 just sit still, and 'saw wood' for another year? There you are, gentlemen, Sparling Mayor, (just keep his old seat) and the other six,—a council right to hand, and we charge you nothing for it.

HOPEVILLE.

Mr. Chas. Deyell has returned home to his parents after a few years in the Western States. He has purchased land there and proposes to go back there in the spring. Our people here are sorry to see some of our best young men leaving Canada. We claim we have here as good a climate, soil, and productivity as they have in the States, and if they have to choose a wife our girls in Ontario are second to none.

There is considerable talk here of the McArthur v. Hall suit at Owen Sound, over very trifling matters that might have been settled at home. We think the parties who advised to go were to blame as it has cost both parties considerable fees putting the county to considerable expense. Before the County arrives here some of our boys will spend an evening with the Sons of Scotland, in Freceville, and a Christmas Tree party is to be held here the coming week.

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