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THE DAWN

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The People's Paper KITCHENER and WATERLOO Every Thursday

TO OUR READERS

With this issue THE DAWN makes its bow to the people of Kitchener as successor to The Weekly Advertiser. During the few months that The Weekly Advertiser served the people of this city it established for itself an enviable reputation as a fearless exponent of truth; and because it gave the people of Kitchener facts regarding municipal affairs which could not be readily obtained elsewhere it became the most widely read paper in the city. That policy will be continued in the future.

The name of the paper has been changed to the THE DAWN as being more appropriate to its mission and the times through which we are passing The mission of this paper is to give the citizens of Kitchener light on many municipal matters which have long been kept in the dark, and keep the citizens informed regarding municipal activities, and what their public servants are doing. No public man has anything to fear from this paper provided he treads the straight and narrow path; but if he deviates from that path the public have a right to know it; and they will know it. Those who prove themselves worthy to be praised will receive it; and blame will be placed where it belongs without fear or favor.

We believe that this city, in fact the whole world, stands at the dawn of a new day. "Old things are passing away; and all things are becoming new." Kitchener will play a very important part in shaping the future of Canada; and Canada will play an important part in shaping the future of the world. THE DAWN will do everything within its power to usher in the new day in a sane and orderly manner.

For several months the Weekly Advertiser, and now this issue of THE DAWN have been distributed to you free of cost. You will readily understand that no newspaper can survive for any great length of time unless it can get from its readers the cost of the newsprint and distribution; the other costs being met out of advertising.

By keeping you posted on municipal matters and giving you facts and information regarding these matters which would be very difficult for you to get in any other way, we believe THE DAWN is meeting a real need in this city. This issue of THE DAWN will be the last under the free distribution plan. In future the price will be 3 cents. A carrier boy will call on you and solicit your subscription; and if you desire the paper you will pay the carrier boy 3 cents each week when the paper is delivered.

The paper will be worth much more than the price in many ways. For this price you will get full information regarding municipal matters. From this paper you will learn what your elected representatives in council are doing, and why they are doing it. Along with this information you will get our constructive criticism of their activities as well constructive suggestions for their guidance and yours. Whether you agree with us or not you will want to know what we have to say.

The merchants who advertise in THE DAWN are the best in Kitchener, and offer you real bargains. By trading with these merchants you will save money.

We believe that by bringing into the light municipal matters which otherwise would be kept in the dark we will help in keeping down your taxes by preventing the wasteful expenditure of your money. When the carrier boy calls on you tell him to leave a copy each week.

To The Public

To all the People of Kitchener and Waterloo

The Dawn extends greetings and Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. May the year 1934 be the dawn of a new day for you and yours; and may your homes be places where only joy and gladness dwell. May we all work together for the betterment of our city, and strive to make and keep it the finest place on earth in which to live. May peace reign supreme among the nations, and Good Will predominate among all peoples. May Prosperity Prosper.

The Dawn Publishing Co.

WOMEN IN FACTORIES

Editor The Dawn :

Kindly permit me to bring to your attention, and through your paper to the attention of the business men of this city, a matter which is of vital concern to our everyday life.

I would like you to go through our factories and see for yourself the number of married women employed; in some factories these are in the majority. I see men wheeling baby carriages while their wives are at work in factories; and in some cases both are working, the men sit at home and the children roam the streets. It is no wonder we have so much crime when children have no home life.

I think the government or the city officials should look into this matter and correct conditions, and see that everybody gets a square deal. I have no doubt that the system which permits women to work while their husbands stay at home and their children run wild is one of the after effects of the war; but it is time it was stopped, for the children are growing up without principle, and without respect for law. I thank you for allowing me this space.

—Mrs. H. L..

MATTER OF OPINIONS

Editor The Dawn: The citizens of Kitchener should weigh very carefully the arguments for and against the contention that if a mayor is elected for one year he should be given a second term; but no more. In favor of the contention it is argued that the position should be open to any man who has served in council and has the ambition to be mayor; that the position is an honorary one, and should be passed around among those who desire it, and no man should monopolize it.

Such an argument is "small town" stuff; and the man who seriously advances it does not fully realize that Kitchener has passed the small town stage, and is numbered among the great cities of Canada.

The argument that because a man has served in council and desires to be mayor he should be entitled to the position, does not take into consideration the fact that the duties of a mayor and aldermen are vastly different, consequently the qualifications required are vastly different. A man without any literary qualifications may be elected to council on the ground that he is a good fellow, or a good sport; and after he is once in he follows the crowd, never steps on anybody's toes, never offers any real worth-while suggestions; but because he follows the crowd and is carried along by the other members he gets himself elected year after year; then he suddenly blos- [illegible] the mayoralty. His claim is that he has served the city for a number of years, and is entitled to the position. We will assume that he is elected; and here the trouble begins.

During his years in council he simply followed the crowd; but as mayor he is expected to assume a leadership for which he is not qualified because he has not been trained. As mayor he must stand alone, for he cannot lean on the crowd. He must appear at public functions where he is expected to represent the dignity and intelligence of the city and its people. Outsiders judge a city by its chief magistrate; and in all too many instances there is too much ground for an unfavorable opinion.

The argument that if such a man as we have just described is elected for one year he should be given a second term carries its own refutation. If a man has been able to put it over the people year after year, and get himself elected to council, then puts it over the people sufficiently to induce them to elect him to the mayoralty, is not a sound reason why the people should knowingly permit him to put it over them again, and go on for a second year suffering the humiliation which such a situation involves.

A year ago it was reported that a man who could not read had served as alderman several years, then had himself elected mayor. When it was discovered that he could not read the motions placed in his hands he had to resign. Without the ability to read he could not conduct council meetings; otherwise that town would have had that man as mayor for at least one year. One year is just that much too long for some men to be either in council or as mayor.

When Kitchener was a small town, and the mayoralty was more [illegible] there might have to the argument that should be passed around; but now that the position has become more of an executive one there is too much at stake. There is far more force to the argument that when the city gets a good executive as mayor he should be kept in office as long as possible.

J.C.B.

DO YOU AGREE?

The Dawn has arranged with C. Mortimer Bezeau for one article each week dealing with some matter of special interest to the people of Kitchener. We have placed no restrictions on Mr. Bezeau, and he is at liberty to deal with any matter he may choose; and handle it in his own way. He may at times give a review of municipal activities, with a running comment on the same; or he may offer suggestions for the improvement of these activities and the betterment of the city.

It is safe to say that no man in this city is better qualified to discuss municipal affairs; and no man better able to make the people "sit up and take notice". We do not claim that every person in Kitchener will agree with everything which Mr. Bezeau will say in these articles; but we do believe that every person will want to read them—in fact no person can afford not to read them, for the reason that you should know what he has to say whether or not you agree with him.

"Disappointed winner." That is a new one; but Ald. Gordon can be original in his use of phrases as well as in his thinking.

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OPEN NIGHTS

To the Editor :

The Daily Record gives a stinging rebuke to those men who knock things for no other reason than to knock. There does not appear any reason to doubt that the rebuke was intended for the man who, as soon as the election was over, started to knock Ald. Gordon's garbage collection scheme. The rebuke would have been more effective had it named the man for whom it was intended, rather than merely dealing with the matter in a general way. Some men are so mentally dense that they cannot see or feel a point unless it strikes them squarely between the eyes; and the only way to register on thir minds is to aim directly at the spot intended to be reached.

Ald. Gordon's scheme for the collection of garbage is so far ahead of anything ever proposed by mayor Sturm, either as mayor or alderman, that no one need be surprised that he has been unable to see its advantage over the present system. But if the aldermen have a sense of their obligation to the electors who put them where they are they will support Ald. Gordon in his efforts to put his scheme across, and pay no attention to the mayor.

—R.Y.T.

SERIOUS LOSS AT DOON PLANT

At the time the plant was designed it was understood that provision had been made to collect the gas from the digestion tanks and use this gas for heating the tanks and the drying beds. It has been discovered that the provision for collecting the gas is inadequate; and that only about one-half of it is gathered and used; the other half escaping and constituting more or less of a danger due to the possibility of explosion. Because of the loss of this gas the city has to buy coal to furnish heat which this gas should supply.

When the consultants and contractor handed the plant over to the city the consultants were engaged to supervise the operation of the works for a year with the understanding that they would be paid $1,500 at the end of the year provided the plant which they designed was operating satisfactorily. At the end of the year the plant was not in satisfactory operation, and the consultants were so advised by the mayor and sewer committee of that day. The consultants did not ask for their pay until almost another year had elapsed; and during that year the plant superintendent and city engineer carried o nexperiments at the expense of the city. When the account for supervising the plant was presented in May of 1933 the consultants were again advised that the plant was not even then operating satisfactorily; nevertheless after some delay the account was paid; and the plant is not yet operating satisfactorily, because coal has to be used at considerable cost; whereas if the gas were collected and used it would cost nothing.

Up to the present time we have not learned of anything that would lead us to believe that Mayor Sturm is particularly anxious to have the plant so arranged that the heating can be changed from coal to gas; but regardless of any inactivity on the part of the mayor in this respect, the sewer committee should see that this enormous loss is stopped at once.

Neighbor's Boy—"Yes, please, Mr. Jones. Pa says could you 'blige him with the loan of a corkscrew."

Jones—" A corkscrew? Certainly! You run along, Bobby—I'll bring it around myself".

SLICK AND SLICKER

After a visit to the city, Hiram Hornswoggle told his friend :

" Some of them bank fellers are pretty slick with their fingers. I seen a feller in one o' them banks, and blow me if he didn't have to keep a wet sponge alongside to keep his fingers from getting red hot. He told me so hisself."

A Publicity Agent

We do not know whether the Family Relief Board thought they were engaging a relief officer or a publicity agent when they engaged Relief Officer Hagedorn; but we do know that there has been plenty of publicity of a certain kind ever since he took over the office. We have sometimes wondered how he has found time to do all the wonderful things he says he has done, and yet find time to prepare so many statements regarding the way he has changed things around, and the amount of money he has saved the people since taking over his duties. As a relief officer we think he is the best publicity agent Kitchener has yet produced.

To be quite frank about the thing, if the relief department has saved as much as the relief officer says it has since he became its head surely there is no good reason why he should hog all the credit, and not give a little bit to his associates in office who actually worked out and suggested the changes that have been made. These changes would have come about whether Hagedorn or some other person had been in office. But even with the changes the actual figures of the cost of relief do not show that there has been any saving over last year, except what was taken out of the mouths of the relief recipients; and what was saved in this way was spent in some other way—relief headquarters and boost in salary as a couple of samples.

Ald. Eby Questions Mayor

This paper did not support Ald. Eby at the last election; but now that he has been elected we would be highly delighted to see him make good. As the special correspondent of the Daily Telegram, Ald. Eby is permitted to "sit in" at the meetings of the Family Relief Board, and thereby obtains information not readily available to the public.

With the knowledge thus obtained he was able to ask the mayor some very pertinent questions at the council meeting Monday night regarding the actual cost of relief as compared with the figures intermittently handed out by the relief officer. Ald. Eby expressed himself as "fed up" with the publicity stunts put on by the relief officer. He gave the mayor a week to obtain the desired information; and we await the mayor's reply with a good deal of interest.

Relief Officer Hagedorn has been issuing statements purporting to show that the cost of administrating the relief department is going down; but Ald. Eby showed that salaries had increased almost $1,000 in the last half of this year over what they were last year; and the miscellaneous account had increased $3,730.61 during the same period.

If Ald. Eby can convince the council, the mayor and members of the Family Relief Board that they need a relief officer with business ability rather than a publicity agent he will be doing a real sirvice to the city.

THROWING DUST

Readers of The Daily Record must have been confused when, a few days before the election, they read a report from the Waterloo Township sanitary inspector that both of our sewage disposal plants were operating very satisfactorily. Throughout the year the citizens had been reading about trouble at the different plants; how part of the Doon plant had to be operated by hand; how vast quantities of gas were going to waste; and in addition to the loss, this escaping gas created a nuisance and a danger. There is no information that any of these matters have been corrected; and yet a few days before the election the Record published under a prominent heading, and without any explanation, a report of the township sanitary inspector that the plants were giving good satisfaction.

The explanation is simple to the man who knows; and this instance furnishes a good example of how the Record fails to keep its readers informed on matters of vital importance. The sanitary inspector was talking from the standpoint of the township; and the plant is so isolated that the township residents would not notice any local nuisance. The township inspector is not interested in the mechanical operation of the plant; nor is he interested in the cost of operation. The annual cost of the Doon plant to the citizens of Kitchener, including operation, interest and principal, amounts to approximately $35,000 a year.

Whether the addition to the Spring Valley plant improved conditions there cannot be known until the warm weather comes. The addition was not completed until the hot weather which caused the trouble had passed. Without these explanations the publication of the report was merely so much dust thrown into the eyes of the electors.

The report was a lengthy one, yet was published in full. Every month Kitchener's sanitary inspector, medical officer of health, food inspector, and school dentist present a report of their respective departments to the Board of Health; but can anyone remember when the Record gave space for a full report of one of these officials. Surely the report of these officials are of as much importance and interest to the citizens of Kitchener as is the report of a township sanitary inspector.

When the Devil was sick

He was a tenderfoot who had been hunting and became lost in the woods. He had been out hunting before, but always in company with men who knew the country; but this was his first experience alone. The shades of night had fallen; and in his frantic wanderings he saw a light in the distance and he made straight for it. Arriving at the house from which the light shone he knocked at the door. Presently he heard an upstair window open, and a head emerged. Then the head disappeared and he heard the window shut with a bang. He knocked again more loudly than before; but the door did not open.

He was afraid; and in his fear he shivered from head to foot. He recalled that just before entering the woods he had called at this same house, and that the inmates had not been any too well pleased with his company because he had not conducted himself any too much like a gentleman. He tried the door and found it locked. The night life of the woods had awakened. The hum of insects to his frightened ears sounded like the roar of Niagara, while the chirp of crickets sounded to him like the howl of many wolves. Maddened by fear his voice rose to a shriek.

"Please let me in—let me in just once more. If you let me in once more—just once more, I will behave; and I will never come back again—never again, if you just let me in this time."

The inmates heard his cry and took pity on him and opened the door and admitted him, but he no sooner crossed the threshhold than he started to act even meaner than he did the time before.

"When the devil was sick the devil a saint would be; but when the devil was well, devil a saint was he."

Riding Two Horses

As previously predicted the increase in salary to Relief Officer Hagedorn was held over until after the election, and was presented to council Monday night, December 11th, the increase being retractive to October 1st.

When the Family Relief Board Accounts were before council on November 13th, Ald. Schafer signified his intention of voting against the increase when it would come before council; but that was before the election. When the matter did come before the council the election was over, and Ald. Schafer apparently thought it safe to vote for the increase, which he did, though he stated that he was opposed to it. Ald. Schafer does not yet appear to know that it is his vote that counts. Perhaps he thinks that what he says is what will count with the electors, because what he says may get into the papers, while his vote is given silently. But Ald. Schafer during the months to come won't be able to ride two horses going in opposite directions and get away with it, for the reason that The Dawn is going to show up all that kind of stuff.

Let it be known that Ald. Gordon was the only member of council to vote against the increase in salary to Relief Officer Hagedorn.

The Second Term

The Dawn is young in years, but old in experience and observation, and it hopes it will not live long enough to subscribe to the doctrine that a mayor should invariably have two years in office, and then quit or be forced out. We do not know of any other city where such a doctrine is preached. Other cities do not hesitate to vote a mayor out at the end of the first year if he has not been satisfactory; and they keep a good man as long as he wants to stay. Within the knowledge of the writer Toronto voted mayors out after only one year; and on the other hand that city has kept some good mayors so many years that we lost count.

The Dawn believes that the suggestion that any kind of a mayor should be allowed to remain in office two years and that a good mayor should retire at the end of two years, is unpatriotic, because it sets the individual up in preference to the municipality. A lot of harm can be done by a mayor who is not fitted for his job; and an equal amount of harm might be done by forcing a good man out of office merely to allow a man with a craving for honor, but without qualification, to take his place.

The first duty of the electors is to the city; and we are glad to find that at the last election nearly 4,000 electors expressed themselves as favorable to our view. It would be a sorry day for Kitchener if the doctrine of two-years-and-no-more became thoroughly established in Kitchener; and the electors will more fully realize the truth of what we say before the year is out.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES FOR 1934

The Dawn believes that next year's council would do well not to make any changes in the personnell of the committees except to put Ald. Meinzinger on the cemetery committee where he was in 1932. If there is any ground for the contention that an alderman does not get his municipal stride until he has been in council a year, and he is in council to be of service, he should stay where he can do the most good. This is an age of specializing; and every alderman should set himself a task, and stay with it until he has done a good job; not merely get a smattering of one thing then jump to another. It is not enough that aldermen jog along in the even tenor of their way, satisfied if things do not get worse. There is room for improvement; and no alderman should be satisfied until he has made things better than he found them.

Ald. Smith is the logical man for chairman of the finance committee. It is not the duty of the finance chairman to advise the council regarding finances. Under the law that is the duty of the mayor; but this year leadership along this line will have to come from the fiinance chairman; and there is no member of the present council better qualified for this duty than Ald. Smith.

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Mayor Sturm and Ald. Gordon

A few days ago Mayor Sturm attacked Ald. Gordon's garbage collection scheme; and in an interview to the Record Mayor Sturm is reported to have said in part:

"Ald. Gordon does not know what he is talking about. Anyone with any municipal experience knows that when city work is let out at contract it costs less and the work is done better.

"There does not seem to be much sense in Ald. Gordon's idea. If there was I would be glad to support it. He talks about horses and carts doing the collection and delivering the carts to a truck to be hooked on as trailers. Does he realize horses and carts cannot negotiate such hills as Albert and Cedar streets in the winter time?

"Gordon perhaps wants to find jobs for a few of his political friends. He has some friends, I believe, on the street cleaning job, and they sure are not outstanding examples of energy and enterprise."

Ald. Gordon's Reply

"I am not answering Mayor Sturm's statement in Monday's paper. In the first place I am too busy minding my own business, and in the second place the statements contained in the article are too foolish, ridiculous and childish for me to bother my head with.

"They are the words of a disappointed winner, and show poor sportsmanship on the part of the mayor of a city like Kitchener. There is one statement contained in Mayor Sturm's utterance to to which I take exception, not as an attack on myself, but because it reflects upon the honor and sincerity of men who have been loyal to the city and the department by which they are employed.

"Mayor Sturm says "Gordon wants to find jobs for his political friends. He has some friends on the street cleaning job, and they sure are not outstanding examples of energy and enterprise."

"To me that is a serious accusation and unworthy of a mayor of this city. Does the mayor not know that most of these men are returned soldiers who for four years held the most hazardous occupation in the world? They worked in the midst of a living hell. These men in four years used up 20 years of their life's energy.

"I merely want to point out that these men are not my political friends, but men who are anxious and willing to work for a livelihood; and for them I have every respect even if the mayor has not.

"The rest of his interview is unworthy of a reply. I leave that for the citizens to judge."

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Playing The Game

Recently two rugby teams played a game for the championship of Canada; and when it was over the members of each team were asked to say half a dozen words over the radio. It was a great game—a tough game; and each player put into it the best he had. When the captain of the losing team was asked to speak into the microphone he said, "It was a great game and the best team won."

How different from the so-called "game" of politics. Here it is not always the best man that wins; more often he is the one who loses. Why is this so? Let us study the methods of playing the political game. Let us take first the method adopted by the better man of conducting his campaign. We will say he is a man of high ideals; and his record shows that he has consistently fought to ease the burdens which weigh heavily upon the great mass of the people. Throughout his public career his record has been clean and free from stain of any kind. He presents his record to the people, as well as the record of his opponent, and asks the electors to make their own comparison and reach their own conclusions. He plays the game according to the rules. Being a man of high ideals he refuses to go beyond the limits of truth, believing that the truth should be sufficient to convince the people of his interest in their welfare; and that truth will ultimately prevail.

His opponent may have no such scruples; and moreover he may be dense insofar as a knowledge of public service and public welfare is concerned. His record may be such as would not stand investigation; but he is backed by men of wealth and "influence" who have profited by his votes on many occasions. These wealthy men spend some of their ill-gotten gains to organize and promote his campaign with someone who will do anything for money put in charge. Men are engaged to manufacture and peddle falsehoods from house to house. Others are engaged to call up practically every person whose name appears in the telephone directory, and find out how they stand; and try to change them if they are on the other side.

When election day comes this organization knows the name of every voter whose mind has been poisoned against the better man. The organization knows also the voters who are on the other side whose minds could not be poisoned. The organization knows also the voters who will not vote unless cars are sent to take them out.

As soon as the polls open on the morning of the election day the gang has everything ready; and when the polls close every available vote has been gotten out; but not for the better man.

It may be true that the great majority of the voters favored the better man in their minds notwithstanding the poison that had been spread about; but they all did not trouble themselves to vote. Perhaps thousands of the better man's friends stayed at home, each saying, "My vote counts only one, and it will not be needed." When the votes are counted it is found that the better man has been left at home; and left at home by the people for whom he fought, and because he fought for them; and refused to play into the hands of men with axes to grind at the public expense.

It is thus the world over. History shows that the party of the common people in every country has been in power only about 25 per cent. of the time; while the party of greed, selfishness and privileges has been in power the other 75 per cent.

This is a matter for the people of Kitchener to ponder over very carefully.

Garbage Collection

Ald. Gordon has done the city a real service by working out a municipally owned garbage collection system; and we believe he is right when he says it will save the city several thousand dollars annually. This matter was placed before the council prior to the election, and recommended to next year's council for adoption.

Now that the election is over Mayor Sturm has announced himself as definitely opposed to it. He evidently thought the scheme all right before the election otherwise he would have opposed it, and tried to make political capital out of it.. His opposition to it now that the election is over, and he does not intend to run again for mayor, savors too much of vindictiveness to favorably impress thoughtful people or raise him in their esteem. The writer of a letter published in another column says it is evident Mayor Sturm intends to keep his word not to again offer himself for re-election; and we believe that his opposition to Ald. Gordon's garbage plan is one evidence of his intention not to seek another term.

A great many people who voted for Mayor Sturm are already wondering why they did it; and a little more knocking of sound propositions, and a few more suggestions to increase the number of meetings at so much per meeting as was done at the recent meeting of the Board of Management of the Old People's Home, will cause a great many more to wonder.

There is a strong suspicion in the minds of some who know Mayor Sturm that he opposing Ald. Gordon's garbage collection plan for no other reason than that Ald. Gordon is sponsoring it. Mayor Sturm was chairman of the garbage committee for several years; and it was during his chairmanship that the incinerator was allowed to collapse; and he registered strong opposition to the improvements that were made in 1931 He did not definitely say that he wanted a new incinerator built; but it was either a case of repairing the old one or building a new one; and he was opposed to the repairs.

Just because Mayor Sturm does not intend to seek re-election is not a good reason why the number of meetings with pay should be increased, or that he should knock good propositions merely because he is sore at the man who brings them forward.

Do Your Duty

County Judge McFadden of Kent, addressing the grand jury said: "If you find anything to criticise, criticise it. Do not be weak-kneed, reluctant, or afraid to hurt any one's feelings. Do your Duty." How different from the advice given to municipal politicians, which is something like this: "If you find anything to criticise, forget it. Be sure you never hurt any one's feelings. Never step on any one's toes. Ignore the fact that you have a public duty to perform. Tell everybody you are working for them; but work only for yourself and the friends who helped get you elected."

Some people are slow to learn. The man who tristed the lion's tail discovered that the lion had another end. Now another foolish fellow has discovered that the man who gives service with a smile can give a stunning blow, and do it without hitting below the belt.

What ic worse than the venomous attack of a disappointed winner? The poison darts might have been aimed elsewhere than at men who gave the best part of their lives to the service of the country.

Who's afraid of the big bad wolf? "Not I," said Ald. Gordon.

Public Opinion

Editor, The Dawn: Two things seem to stand out prominently in connection with the Old People's Home. At a recent meeting of the Board of Management of this institution it was pointed out by the manager that the new heating system which was installed at a cost of several thousands is not satisfactory, because it does not heat the building uniformly. The oil heating system which was scrapped to give place to the present coal heating system gave perfect satisfaction; and maintained a uniform temperature throughout the building during all kinds of weather.

If the oil heating system was scrapped for any other purpose than to enlarge the market for coal I would like to know what that purpose is. It is a shame, if these old people during the evening of their lives have to suffer the discomfort of being cold.

Another matter is, that the board are considering the matter of holding more frequent meetings. They appointed a new manager, and an advisory committee; now it would appear that they want to hold more meetings to be told by this committee what to do. I am told the members get $7.00 per meeting which lasts about two hours. One wonders why these matters were not brought out before the election.

Some of the things which have come to light since the election show that Mayor Sturm intends to keep his word.

L.J.K.

Editor The Dawn: I am told that the alderman who sponsored the two-year term by-law in council some weeks ago is special correspondent to the Toronto Evening Telegram. In the issue of that paper of December 6th, appeared a special dispatch from Kitchener in which it was pointed out that only one new alderman and one new school trustee were elected at the recent election; and the argument is advanced in favor of a two-year term for aldermen that it cost the taxpayers almost $2,500 to elect these two men.

Under the proposed bylaw one-half the council would be elected, or re-elected as the case may be, each year for a two-year term, so that there would have to be an election anyway; and it would only be in those years in which there would be a mayoralty contest that there would be any great interest shown by the electors. The cost under the proposed bylaw would be the same as now, because the same machinery would be required, and in all probability there would be as many aspirants for the five seats there would be if there were ten vacant seats to be filled, consequently the cost of printing would not be less.

Many people who have been watching this move can see in it a scheme for getting permanent control of the council by a small group of men, and keeping down the cost to those who finance these campaigns, rather than keeping down the cost to the taxpayers. It will be a sorry day for Kitchener if we ever adopt the two-year term system for electing aldermen.

Observer.

The Dawn invites letters from its readers for publication in this column; and these letters will become a weekly feature of this paper. These letters must be confined to matters of municipal interest. No letter should contain more than 300 words; and must be accompanied by the name of the writer as an evidence of good faith; but the name will not be published if the author desires it withheld. Letters along personal lines will not be entertained—they must be of general interest to the citizens of Kitchener to insure in this column. Addressing your letters,
To Editor, Box No. 102, Kitchener

When Mayor Sturm says that horses and carts cannot negotiate the hills on Albert and Cedar Streets, he evidently does not know that thehills go up and down. In any event what he says is impossible is being done every day in the year except Sunday.

It may be a tough break for the winner when an alderman polls over a thousand votes more than the successful mayoralty candidate but a candidate who boasts of the fame he achieved on the field of sport ought to be sportsman enough to hide his disappointment.

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FINANCE CHAIRMANSHIP

Ald. Gordon's statement that he does not desire the honor of chairman of the finance committee indicates that he is in council to serve the people rather than seek fame and honor. He perfers to stay with the garbage committee and see through to a successful end his new garbage collection scheme which will save several thousand dollars a year to the taxpayers. In a true sence Ald. Gordon is in council to see how much he can put into his job—not what he can get out of it.

There are some aldermen who boast of the number of committees they have been on, and how many chairmanships they have held. To the man who knows municipal work such a boast is no credit. It is far better for a man to do but one job and do it well than to have every job in the council and do none of them well. All too frequently chairmanships are obtained by wire pulling for the purpose of being able to boast of the number one has held. The man who wanders through all the committees is not likely to achieve anything very worth while. It may be good politics; but it is not good municipal business.

Ald. Gordon will soon commence his fourth year in council and as a member of the garbage and street cleaning committee; and he is to be commended for staying with the job until he can leave it in a far better condition than it was when he took it over.

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Editor The Dawn :

Kindly allow me space to point out to your readers how unfair the Daily Record is in its reports of council proceedings.

In its issue of Tuesday, Dec. 12, the Record devotes about half a column boosting Ald. Schafer for protesting against the increase in salary given to Relief Officer Hagedorn.

I was present in both finance committee and in council; and I say the report of what took place is both unfair and misleading. The casual reader would infer that Ald. Gordon contented himself with asking if the increase was included in the accounts, and then voted for it; but such was not the case. Ald. Gordon not only made the inquiry; but he protested against the increase, and voted against it; being the only member of the council to record his vote against it. Ald. Schafer contented himself with saying he was against the increase, then voted for it.

It is a remarkable thing that Ald. Smith also said he was against the increase; but said he had to vote for it because the Family Relief Board approved it. What I would like to know is, Who gave the council authority to create a board with greater powers than the council itself has? Apparently the largest spending body in the city is not responsible to anybody; and the members of the council are afraid to call a halt. Are some of the members of the council under obligation to some of the members of the board for their election?

In any event it is a sorry situation; but it is the kind of situation which the people themselves created by their indifference on election day. Had all the people voted as they should have done there would have been a different story to tell. But they did not vote; and now we must all suffer.

T.J.F.

Editor The Dawn :

Some time ago Relief Officer Hagedorn was reported to have said that people were not giving clothing to the relief department the way they formerly did for the reason that "the public have been cleaned out of excess clothing."

Mr. Hagedorn had better make another guess then quit. Until quite recently the people were glad to make sacrifices to help the relief deportment and the dependent unfortunates, believing that those in charge of the department were really interested in the welfare of these pople. But since that boost in salary there has been a change in sentiment—not toward the unfortunates, but toward the department. That Boost in salary has been the most costly thing pulled off on the taxpayers of this city in many a day; and if the members of the council and relief board don't believe it let them put on a drive for funds, and see if they can raise enough to even meet the increase.

Relief Officer Hagedorn's salary with car allowance amounts to well over $2,500 a year; yet he is the man who, when he was going to run for mayor a little over a year ago, said that if the people would elect him he would accept a substantial reduction in salary.

Never Again.

Who killed Cock Robin? "I did," said Ald. Gordon, "but is wasn't a robin, it was just an ordinary sparrow."

We often hear of men who are poor losers; but a poor loser is a prince compared to a disappointed winner.

The traffic cop sez that not all the wooden headed drivers are to be found on golf courses.

Cost of Relief

Editor The Dawn:

In a recent statement given to the Daily Record Relief Officer Hagedorn give the cost of food for 3,519 people for the month of November as $10,500.38, which is less than 10 cents per day per person; and on the strength of this he basis an argument to justify his increase in salary of $50.00 per month.

We do not believe that the cost of food for November was only $10,500.38; but for the sake of argument we will assume that the figure is correct and see where it leaves Hagedorn. For the number of people on relief it amounts to slightly more than 3 cents per meal, or less than 10 cents per day; or slightly more per day than the cost of a quart of milk; or slightly more than the price of a loaf of bread. Many of the people living on this amount are growing children and I would like to ask Hagedorn what kind of men and women he thinks these children will grow up to be.

Some of the people living on the above amount are men who are doing two day's work each week for the city. How much strength can be built up with ten cents worth of food a day? Does Hagedorn not know, and he should know being he is such an expert with figures, that the increase in his salary alone would feed four families of four members each, then have money over.

Hagedorn claims to be so smart, it might be a good plan to try him out with ten cents a day and see how far he would get.

G.L.D.

Editor The Dawn:

Public ownership of municipal enterprises is no experiment in Kitchener; and the people would not think of going back to private ownership of our gas, electric and water systems. Where municipal ownership of any municipal utility fails it is on account of politics being allowed to enter and get control. To illustrate what I mean it has been openly charged that a trailer was built at the municipal yard for an employee of the city, and that the employee in question is a political supported and friend of the mayor. Up to the present time no action has been taken in regard to the matter.

Mayor Sturm says that works done by contract are done better and at less cost than when done by the city-employed help. Such a statement is a sad reflection on the mayor and his administration; because if it is true and he knows it to be true it is his duty to have the matter corrected. If Mayor Sturm cannot see that the city's business is conducted as cheaply and efficiently as private business would be conducted then there is something wrong.

There is no doubt that if our gas, electric and water systems were in private hands we would be paying much more for these services than we are paying under public ownership; and the other city departments under the city council should be conducted equally efficiently and economically.

For the reasons set forth above there does not appear to be any good reason to believe that municipal operation of garbage collection would not be equally efficient and economical; and the council would be well advised to view it in this light. To take any other view is an admission of aldermanic weakness and inefficiency.

E.R.S.

To The Editor:

Ald. Gordon's garbage collection plan should be put into operation by the new council and there should be no hedging by the members of the present council who will be in the council of next year.

It is passing strange that there is so much discussion and so much uncertainty regarding the attitude of certain aldermen. Some of them act as though they must see the gold dollars that will be saved before they will support the proposal. Such an attitude is not a reason; but is an excuse for opposing it. There was no such hesitation about moving the relief department from the city hall; nor about leasing a part of the city hall to the water commission for a term of ten years nor about building an addition to the Spring Valley sewage disposal plant; nor about the payment of $1,600 to the consultants. The alderman were simply asked to do these things and they did them without any great amount of discussion—not because they were sure these things should be done; but because they were asked to do them; and how, and by whom? It would appear that the less certain the aldermen are that a certain course is the right one the less liscussion there is on the matter. But if a thing is undoubtedly right there is usually a lot of discussion—then the thing is turned down; and why? The answer is simple to the man who knows how these things are done. There are always persons whose private interests have to be considered. For instance a man says he is in the retail business, and he has to be very careful how he votes on matters that come before the[illegible] the reason that he cannot afford to offend any of his customers. Are there others in that same position, only they have not been frank enough to admit it?

This brings me to the question, What is a man's word worth who will violate his oath of office time and again throughout the year to suit some customer of his? What protection have the taxpayers got when they elect men to office who will deliberately sacrifice the taxpayers' interest for the sake of one or more customers?

Ald. Gordon's plan was put fairly before the electors who, without doubt, viewed it favorably for they placed its sponsor at the head of the poll with nearly 400 votes more than the next in line, and with nearly 1,500 votes more than the second in line.

This is no time for political jealousies; nor for the consideration of private interests either in or out of council. It is a time when the public interest, and the public interest only should be served; and if there is any alderman who, for any reason, cannot serve the public interest in accordance with his oath of office he should resign; and if he won't resign voluntarily he should be forced out of office.

—D.G.F.

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