

THE VOICE.

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H. COWAN. A. W. PUTTEE. G. PINGLE.



"In Union there is Strength."

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1897.

COMMENT.

The Waterworks company threaten to raise the typhoid tax 75 per cent.

We have come to the conclusion that the Waterworks company were in favor of the passage of the by-law Wednesday last. The publication of their resolutions was the best scheme of getting votes for it that was thought of. Bravo!

Constant agitation is having its good effect. Witness the following from the London Daily Chronicle: "So long as this policy of smashing the unions is pursued we shall advise the workmen at every election—and we doubt if they will require much advising—to vote against the men who are identified with it. be they Conservative or Liberal."

Our worthy Mayor seems very anxious to point out the possible abuses that may happen in connection with day labor. "He did not believe in giving men soft jobs under the pretext that day labor was better than contract." If the Mayor knows of any such cases why doesn't he expose them. Why doesn't he tell of the hundred of ways that the city is skinned by contract work. Ah, Willie, you are sadly changed. Time was when you laid awake nights and wept o'er the working-man's woes. But things are different now.

It has been decided to place Mr. Wm. Small in nomination as a candidate in Ward 4. This is a splendid selection. There is not one of our citizens that deserves more at the hands of the public than does Mr. Small. He has ever taken a foremost part in the endeavour to secure good, honest civic government. As a private citizen he always interested himself in the affairs of the city, and did not wait until he was placed in nomination before he spoke out. If elected he will no doubt show the same public spirit. He is not the tool of any political party, and electors may feel if he is elected he will judge things on their merits and vote accordingly.

A meeting was held in Selkirk hall on Tuesday night to discuss the bylaw that was passed Wednesday. It was a pity there was not a larger number of citizens present. Mr. Howell, during the course of his remarks, brought out a point that the citizens should reflect upon. That is, once a company is given the privilege to use our streets for any purpose they acquire a right that lasts forever. They may have any exclusive monopoly for a stated time, but they can do business there for all time. Mr. Ewart, the president of the Waterworks company, was also present and had a few words to say in its defence. And here let us express admiration for the very fair treatment he was accorded. Considering how much the city was agitated over the company's threat, it is remarkable. Perhaps the personality of the gentleman had much to do with it. Mr. Ewart would lead one to believe that the company had been badly treated. But they have not. The company want the city to pay a sum for their natural monopoly. This the city should not do, as it is their privilege to lay a system of their own. However, had the company during the past maintained a fairly decent system or had they shown any desire to treat the community in a fair spirit they might have expected generous treatment. As it is they must take what the city will give them. To cap the whole affair they endeavored to frighten the citizens into voting against the by-law. But it didn't work. You can't bluff western people. If the company carry out their threat it seems to be the general sentiment to resort to the old system of water carts. Did our trades unions resort to any such tactics to intimidate voters they would mighty quick be summoned before the court.

Mr. Kelly and Day Labor.

In last Saturday evening's papers there appeared a letter from Thos. Kelly, of Kelly Bros., contractors, addressed to Mayor McCreary calling the attention of the council to the fact that the statement made by several aldermen that as a result of the city doing its own work a saving of some thousands of dollars had been effected, was incorrect. Mr. Kelly then goes on to show, from his point of view, that there has been considerable of a loss. This calls into question either the veracity of Col. Rutan or his ability as a civil engineer. Mr. Kelly asks that a judicial investigation be made. At last Monday evening's council meeting, on motion of H. Wilson, the request was complied with, a stipulation being that Mr. Kelly deposit with the city the sum of \$500 to meet expenses in the event of his not being able to substantiate his charges. Mr. Kelly addressed another letter to the mayor, which appeared in Wednesday's papers, together with a cheque for \$500. In his letter Mr. Kelly stipulates certain conditions. (1) That the investigation take place before a judge of the court of Queen's bench. Now Mr. Kelly or his lawyer, or whoever wrote that letter, must have known that the first condition stipulated would serve to defeat the investigation. The municipal act distinctly states that "the council of any municipality may pass a resolution requesting a judge of the county court * * * to cause inquiry to be made into or concerning any matter connected with good government of the municipality or with the conduct of any part of the business thereof." The letter insists that it be held before a judge of the court of Queen's bench. This cannot be. It must be held before a county court judge. Now this may or may not be a scheme to avoid the investigation. Or the letter may be for the purpose of influencing electors at the approaching civic election. However, be that as it may, the people of Winnipeg, and especially that portion favorable to day labor, are anxious to see a full and complete investigation made and any endeavor to avoid it by technicalities, either by the contractor or city officials will, but serve to sway public opinion. Col. Rutan seems anxious that the whole question be thoroughly gone into and the public put in possession of all the facts. In investigating this question all the facts that led up to the city's doing its own work should be part of the subject matter. It would not do to stick up the question of day labor for the purpose of letting any contractor punch at it. If one is to come under review, both should. Let the court look into the manner in which Mr. Kelly has fulfilled his contracts in the past. This investigation is not for the purpose of satisfying any single individual, but for the information of the general public.

The Wail of the Publisher.

Would you ask us why this dunning. Why these sad complaints and rumors. Rumors loud about delinquents Who have read the paper weekly, Read what they have never paid for. Read with pleasure and with profit. Sad it is to turn our ledger, Turn the leaves of this old ledger. Due from volume long since ended, Due for years of pleasant reading, Due for years of anxious labor, Due despite our constant drumming, Due in sums from one to twenty. Would you lift a burden from us? Would you have a quiet conscience? Would you read a paper paid for? Send us money, send us money: Send us money that you owe us.

The electric brake for railroad cars is pronounced a success. Electrical engines are also being put on one of the Chicago elevated railways. They have given satisfaction at every test. The railway workers will have to take their medicine same as other toilers.

The engine wipers of the Southern Pacific Railroad company went on a strike recently for higher wages. Until lately the wipers, who were paid by the hour, were able to earn from \$1.10 to \$1.30 per day, but of late 50 cents per day has been the maximum of their earnings.

The Journeymen Plasterers' union of Cincinnati has just won a victory on one of the largest buildings being constructed in that city, all non-union men being discharged and union men hired. The chief reason was that the non-union men were not capable of doing the work in the skillful manner required.

Governor Budd, of California, has pardoned the seven lathers sentenced to one year's imprisonment on a charge of manslaughter growing out of the death of a lather who was assaulted while at work during a strike of the building trades in San Francisco last year. The accused had already been confined for nearly a year, pending appeal in their case.

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To the Electors

-OF-

WARD 4

As the time when the annual choice by the people of fit and proper persons to be their representatives in the City Council is fast approaching, we would take this opportunity of laying before you for your consideration the name of one who, from his long residence in the city and from the active part which he has always taken on all subjects pertaining to the welfare and advancement of the city, is in our estimation most deserving of your support.

Mr. William Small is a man well known in Winnipeg as the fearless opponent of all crookedness, and as the earnest advocate of economy and efficiency in the administration of the city's affairs. We have therefore no hesitation in submitting his name to the electors of Ward 4, confident that his election will mean, as far as in him lies, an earnest and faithful discharge of his duties, as well as that we will have at the council board one who is perfectly capable of performing all the duties falling to the share of your representative in a manner creditable to you as well as profitable for the city.

Don't forget that for the next two years large sums of money will have to be spent by the council, not only in local improvements, but also in the construction of City Waterworks. It will therefore pay any individual voter to find out just where the candidates for election stand on this important matter before he pledges either one of them his support in this contest.

The ground that we take is that your representative should be a man chosen by yourselves, not one who is the choice of a few interested parties.

JACOB BYE, Chairman of Committee pro tem.

Photos.

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