

THE MORNING GUARDIAN

SATURDAY JUNE 2, 1900.

THE WARD SYSTEM.

The discussion of the ward system in the City Council on Thursday night was marked by such coarseness of language on the part of some members as of itself might be thought to furnish an argument for the change. The ward system has given us a number of civic representatives who are neither self-respecting, respectful of the proprieties of debate, nor of the characters of their fellow members. By so much these gentlemen are a living argument against the system which they uphold. And, as it is abundantly clear that at least two or three of their number could never obtain seats at the Council Board by the votes of the united electorate of the City, we can readily understand why they cling to the existing order of things.

We invite our readers to take notice of the language of the resolution adopted by the Council on Thursday evening and the language of certain of the speakers who supported it, as contrasted with certain historic facts. The preamble to the resolution sets forth that "certain citizens have waited upon members of the Legislature," and, "we believe that a majority of the citizens are opposed to abolishing the ward system." Council. When in supporting the resolution claimed that "the citizens at large have expressed no desire for such a change." Council. Brown "was surprised at the men who have circulated the petitions to abolish the wards." Council. Taylor sneered at "corner meetings."

Now what are the facts? In February last a public meeting of the ratepayers, duly advertised by the Mayor in his official capacity was held in the Market Hall "to consider civic matters previous to holding the Civic Elections." At that meeting, which the city papers of that date say was largely attended, His Worship the Mayor presided, and speeches or motions, or both, were made by the Mayor, Councillors Crabbe, Nicholson, Taylor, Hooper, Horne and Messrs. L. P. Tanton, John Whear, P. S. Brown, J. P. Tanton, W. H. Aitken, L. L. Beer, W. A. Weeks and George E. Hughes. At that meeting Mr. Hughes moved a resolution affirming the desirability of abolishing the ward system and electing the Councillors by the united vote of the city. That resolution was almost unanimously adopted.

It is in the face of these facts that these ward representatives now have the hardihood to stand up and say the majority of our citizens desire the continuance of the ward system! That surely was no "hole-and-corner meeting" which was held in Market Hall in February last. We might with much more propriety speak of the average City Council meeting in such terms. No doubt it would suit certain of the ward heeled to abolish public meetings, abrogate the right of petition and hold all power in their own hands. The people are not quite ready as yet. They retain some lingering attachment to their ancient rights as freemen. They will still from time to time petition the Legislature. They will still, when duly summoned, meet together in public assembly to give their views on civic affairs, and when so assembled they pronounce with united voice in favor of a measure they expect their resolve to be respected.

Against the resolution of the Council, whose preamble is contradicted by the facts we have cited, we place the weightier decision of the citizens in the Market Hall meeting. It is well that the members of the Legislature should be made acquainted with the facts. They may not have followed our city affairs very closely and might be misled by the interested attitude of the majority of the Council. The trend of civic affairs in Canada is now and has been for years past in the line of abolishing ward representation. We believe that if tried here it would give us a better class of civic representatives and raise the status of the Council to something above its present rather disappointing level. We are satisfied that His Worship the Mayor in standing with the minority of the Council in favor of a change of system has truly represented the wishes of a majority of the citizens. He was elected by all the wards and is in a better position to speak for the city than are the men who are chosen by a mere handful of voters in single wards.

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See Them!, See Them!, See Them!

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Price 1.00, sizes 3 to 9 years; 1.95, size 3 to 10 years; 3.50, sizes 4 to 8 years, 5.00, 5 to 10 years. Brownie Suits, price 5.50, sizes 6 to 9 years; prices 4.75, 5.00, 5.50, 6.00, 6.50 and 7.00, fit boys from 4 to 10 years. Boys' Sailor Suits at \$1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 2.55, to fit boys from 4 to 10 years, some with red, some with black and some with blue trimmings. Our assortment of these goods is very large and we can undoubtedly sell you either in price or style. Our boys' Sailor Suits, at 5.00 of heavy all-wool Worsted Irish Serge is a seller, anyone wanting something really fine for their boy, should see those. To see them is to admire them. Our stock of Middy Suits have been pronounced by the ladies the best in the city. If you want something nobby and entirely new in this style of goods, see our American styles they are going fast. Prices 2.00, 2.50, 2.75, 3.50, 4.00, 4.35, 5.00, 5.50, 6.00, 6.50 and 7.00, fit boys from 4 to 10 years.

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