

THE CITY.

REGULARLY CHOSEN

The Commercial Club Elects Officers in a Legal Way.

H. C. HELM IS PRESIDENT

The Club Discusses a Number of Matters of Interest.

The Commercial club held its usual bi-weekly meeting last night and about 25 members were in attendance. The principal business of the evening was the election of officers for the ensuing year, the election held a week ago having been informally conducted.

Before proceeding with the election H. C. Helm, for the committee appointed to look after the normal school site, reported that no decision had been reached by the owners of the Lincoln park site. A lively discussion ensued and Mr. Helm was given more time in which to report.

Upon motion an informal ballot was taken for the election of president and Colonel Helm received 18 out of 24 votes. A motion to make the ballot formal was opposed by Mr. Helm, who wished to be elected in a regular manner and to give every man a chance to exercise his right of franchise. The result was the same and Mr. Helm was finally declared elected unanimously. The other officers were elected without incident as follows: Vice president, S. W. Hill; secretary, I. H. Peake; treasurer, N. L. Summerfield; directors, E. Downey, J. W. Preston, C. S. Pierce, John W. Nelson and Peter Johnson.

Colonel Helm was escorted to the chair by a committee of one, J. W. Preston, who took the veteran by the arm and marched him to his seat in a vigorous manner. When he was installed the new president made an address to the club in the course of which he alluded to the immense amount of good that was to be done by semi-informal meetings of the citizens to discuss and confer with each other upon questions that are vital to the welfare of the city, and asked for the earnest cooperation of every member in his efforts to promote the interests of this part of the city. The other officers also thanked the club for their election and promised to do every thing they could for the city and its interests.

Alderman elect D. E. Stevens was present and the club insisted upon hearing from him. Captain Stevens thanked the gentlemen present for the honor done him, and said that he already was reaping the fruits of office. It kept him busy, he said, answering the door of his house to admit callers, most of whom came to ask him to aid in appointing them to some office, and it gave him much satisfaction to be able to tell these applicants without fear of losing their votes—at least for the next two years that he could do nothing. This tickled the club immensely, and the universal merriment seemed almost to indicate that some of those present had been among the captain's visitors.

Alderman Nelson spoke at some length upon the subject of the viaduct over the tracks on Garfield avenue. This is a subject that is very near and dear to the Westenders. They want that viaduct and they mean to have it. The sentiment of the club is that grave danger is attendant upon the level crossings and as they are necessarily somewhat dependent upon street car travel at the West end, they want the best facilities possible.

The county hospital matter next engaged the attention of those present. The sentiment of the club was in favor of the building of the hospital as an economical measure. This idea was opposed by Richard Sloan who said that as the city paid 31-40ths of the taxes of the county that the city should build the hospital.

Mr. Swordling was asked to tell the tale of the intake pipe.

"Which intake?" asked Mr. Swordling. We have three."

"Any old intake," was the reply, so the member of the board told the club all about the three of them and added that in about ten days, a member of the board of health had informed him, the steel tank would be in position and the free water carts could be laid up.

After the formal meeting had been adjourned for two weeks, the members of the club started an informal discussion upon the county roads project. An idea was started that it would be of great advantage to the nation if a military road were to be built from Duluth to Fort Francis, so that in event of war with Canada an expedition could be fitted out and sent along this road to capture that important fortification. It was argued that if a nice straight road were laid out that the soldiers would not lose their way and it was suggested that a communication be sent to Mr. Towne asking for an appropriation. No action was taken upon the question, but the good seed has been sown and the Duluth, Mesaba Range, Tower and Rainy Lake military highway is yet among the embryo possibilities of the future.