

VIRGINIA COUNCIL IN STORMY CONFERENCE

Saloon Reducing Ordinance Argument Brings City At- torney in for Flaying.

VIRGINIA, Nov. 28.—Members of the Virginia council are "stumped" to know how to untangle the special election knot for reducing the saloons to 20 as the result of the putting in another twist to the legal tangle at the council meeting tonight.

A communication from A. D. Heritage, A. G. Gordon and J. L. Murkley pointed out to the council facts on dates which may tie up the special election, which the council by a resolution tonight set for December 20. According to the contention advanced by the three above, the council is bound by law to fulfill the provisions of the repealing ordinance on the date specified, Dec. 19. They claim the mayor and council will have to select the 28 license holders to be dropped on this date. The repealing ordinance provides that 20 licenses be granted to become effective Jan. 1, 1917, and will have to be submitted to the mayor on Dec. 20, date of the election, to be legally granted.

The reducing ordinance, they contend, becomes effective Dec. 19, that the special election would be a "useless expense" if held a day later.

The council refused to see the point and unanimously voted for a resolution for the election Dec. 20, and provided for the publishing of the ordinance.

City Clerk Bickford certified the petition brought for the election for the repealing ordinance although there were 105 defective signatures out of 429 names. None of the defective signers were on the poll list. The number of qualified electors necessary is 324.

A bitter attack was made on City Attorney Dahl in the communication and open statement was made that the senders were ready for a fight with those in the city administration "not on the square" and "trying to get away with things."

Caustic remarks were made that Attorney Dahl should have cautioned the council to go slow. Legal advice given to Dahl, it was said, prevented adoption of the double platoon system. He was also scored for his opinion on the city hall site case.

"These two ordinances," the document read, "did not meet his fancy, but this reducing ordinance did meet his fancy and caused him to disagree with the attorney general. We believe the reducing ordinance valid and that the repealing ordinance was presented too late to stop the council from carrying into effect terms of present legislation which require 28 saloons be closed Jan. 1, 1917."

Attorney replied to the criticism by demanding the council to comply with the charter and keep out of the "jackpot" that other range cities are in.

"What have I to gain?" demanded Dahl. "I don't care about the city hall site or how many saloons are in here. I now say the reducing ordinance as submitted was unfair, improper and not intended to give 'an even break.' The license holders should have been given a year's time. D. D. Morgan admitted I was correct in my city hall site opinion, and I warned the council against influence of stockholders. Look at the Elk case."

Rev. K. Leech appeared before the council and demanded they act as indicated by the majority of the citizens in the repealing ordinance. Mayor Boylan replied the city administration had no alternative but to hold the election.

"But remember you are representing the people," warned Rev. Mr. Leech as he departed from the hall in an angry mood.

City Clerk Bickford tonight declared all applications for liquor licenses must be in before Dec. 1 to be considered in complying with the reduction ordinance.

"Licenses received after this date will not be accepted," said Bickford. Nine applications were filed yesterday by Sam Henick, Robert Garvey, Harry Gilham, Gerald Bros., Caesar Mondavi, Matt Pryanovich, William Merrill, A. Marshik, and E. A. Storr. City Attorney Dahl came in for



ATTORNEY S. S. DAHL.

censure from Alderman George Harvey tonight over his opinion on the pet city hall site case. Alderman Harvey denounced Dahl's unclear opinion when the ordinance for condemning the property was passed and stated he would have voted "no" had he known the city was obligated at that time to buy the land.

Attorney Dahl returned the compliment, contending that the city even now could "back up" by appealing the award and through a resolution abandon the project.

Harvey was unconvinced that the city could escape the purchase even after delving into the charter for an hour.

"Why keep it from the people?" asked Harvey with vigor. "I am sorry for my vote for it."

The passing of a resolution to complete and certify payment will come up next Tuesday. President McGhee announced. McGhee declared the site to be purchased was not a proper place for a municipal auditorium.

Unless coal dealers "come across" with coal bids in the next three weeks Virginia city employes face a cold and dreary winter. No bids were received for the city contract by the council and the supply is running short. A second hurry up call was sounded for bids by the administration.