

# E.K. Alderman For Merger; Mayor Sees More Headaches

Alderman Stanley Dowhan of East Kildonan has endorsed total amalgamation for Greater Winnipeg on the grounds that the present 13 municipal councils in the area are worthless anyway.

Ald. Dowhan was speaking at an East Kildonan city council meeting Monday night

on a proposal for exploratory amalgamation talks with North Kildonan and Transcona. Discussion centred around possible gains for East Kildonan ratepayers in such a merger.

"The only way we're going to gain," Ald. Dowhan said, "is by total amalgamation. As it is now, we're just fighting among each other.

"Joining North Kildonan and Transcona isn't going to solve anything. What's wrong with one big city? It's not going to be such a big city anyway with only 500,000 people. Heck, we're just a little hick town compared to Montreal and Toronto.

"Politicians are scared to get on the ball."

Amid protests by the other

aldermen of "speak for yourself" . . . "I take exception to that," Ald. Dowhan went on to say:

"Half the time I don't know what we're doing here. We're just wasting taxpayers' money. We can't even get a hole in the road filled without talking about it back and forth for two or three weeks.

"We're of no value at all. We're worthless."

The rest of the council didn't agree with him. It was decided to attend a meeting in the North Kildonan council chambers on Sept. 19 with the councils of North Kildonan and Transcona. Prior to this meeting, East Kildonan council will meet privately on the subject.

Mayor Michael Ruta said the point in any amalgamation talks should be, "How is East Kildonan going to gain by it?" And he added that he couldn't see what there was to gain. "All we're going to gain is more property and more headaches."

Mayor Ruta also said he didn't like the way the Winnipeg daily newspapers were reporting the amalgamation issue. Just because Transcona had taken the initiative for this particular meeting didn't mean East Kildonan was ready and willing to join it, he said.

"Take the fire department for example," Mayor Ruta said. "If we're going with North Kildonan and if we're going to provide the same service as we have now, it's going to cost us both money."

Ald. Anthony J. Reid said. "People don't care what sort of city they live in. All they care about is how much it costs them."

But Ald. John Huyda said amalgamation was inevitable. "It's going to come anyway. It's a good thing that municipal men want to be enlightened on the subject. These exploratory talks are good."

## Transcona Council Drops All-Or-None Rule

Transcona aldermen assured each other Monday night that they aren't afraid of meeting with representatives of any city to discuss the feasibility of merging municipalities.

Alderman Edward P. Staszewski said, "As far as meeting anybody is concerned, I'm not scared of meeting the devil himself," though he had reservations about actually amalgamating with any other suburb east of the Red River.

The discussion began after Ald. J. G. Albert objected to a motion to repeal a previous requirement that all Transcona council members attend any such inter-city meetings.

By this previous rule, if any council member couldn't be there, then the meeting to discuss amalgamation would have to be postponed.

Ald. William Dzyndra said the high probability of Transcona having to postpone such meetings due to that rule made it appear the city councillors were "afraid" of amalgamation.

Avenue and Plessis Road, is the property of Canadian National Railways.

Ald. Staszewski, chairman of the committee, said it would see how Transcona could "get control of that park without any expense to the city."

He suggested one way this might be done would be for

Transcona to act as selling agent for the property, turning over the money received for purchased land to the Canadian National Railways.

Other members of this special committee are Transcona Mayor Harry Fuller, city solicitor Vaughan Baird and city clerk Gordon Isbell.

## Safety Building Move In E.K.

East Kildonan city council Monday gave first reading to a \$350,000 money bylaw designed to go before the voters in this fall's civic election for a new public safety building.

At least two aldermen are expected to oppose the money bylaw when it comes up for second reading (approved in principle). Some of the alder-

amalgamations in Greater Winnipeg.

But the East Kildonan police force has long been hampered in its operations by cramped quarters, and other aldermen say the need for a new public safety building is urgent.

The proposed site for the building, which will house the city's fire and police depart-