

# TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

## SIX NEW MEMBERS.

### DEFEATED CANDIDATE'S OUTBURST IN CENTRAL WARD.

C.T. Nov. 1929

Polling took place in four wards to fill vacancies on the Christchurch Town Council on Friday last, and as a result of the elections there are altogether six new members of the Council, two contests taking place in Portfield. The new members are:

Mr. Fred Gelsthorpe, Jumpers.  
Mr. J. C. Wyatt. Portfield.  
Mr. W. G. Spickernell, Portfield.  
Mr. Douglas Galton, Central.  
Mr. F. C. Emerson, Purewell.  
Major, Bellairs, Mudeford.

Major Bellairs was returned unopposed and fills Colonel Lyon's former seat; Mr. Gelsthorpe takes the place of Mr. C. G. Bulstrode, who has gone to Australia: Mr. Wyatt fills the vacancy caused by Coun. H. J. Martin becoming an Alderman and has two years to sit; Mr. Spickernell occupies the seat from which Mr. F. E. Abbott withdrew after nomination in being chosen Mayor-Elect; Mr. Douglas Galton defeated Mr. Herbert Druitt, the former member; and Mr. Emerson defeated Mr. L. H. Hiscock, who had represented Purewell for three years.

The officials at the polling-booths were: Jumpers, the Mayor (Coun. Miss M. B. Robinson), Returning Officer; Mr. J. B. Fogaty presiding officer with Mr. Pennell as poll clerk; Portfield, Ald. Barnes, Returning Officer, Messrs. Lincoln Gossling and Bagshot, presiding officers, and Messrs. Dale and Gordon Oakley, poll clerks; Central, Ald. Frank A. Lane, J.P., Returning Officer, Mr. A. N. Wooff, presiding officer and Mr. C. Crowther, poll clerk; Purewell, Ald. H. J. Martin, Returning Officer, Mr. E. K. Dowden, presiding officer and Mr. W. Padwick, poll clerk.

The elections this year aroused more than usual interest, especially in Jumpers, Central and Purewell. The Town Hall was filled to hear the result of the contest in the Central Ward, where the defeated candidate made a remarkable outburst, which is given in full below. The Mission Hall in, Barrack Road was not large enough to accommodate all the voters who came to hear the result, and the electors became rather impatient at waiting until 9.15, the delay, we understand, being due to the fact that a recount became necessary because two ballot papers were not accounted for the first time. The biggest surprise perhaps was the defeat of Coun. Hiscock in Purewell.

### **"SHOPOCRACY."**

#### DEFEATED CANDIDATES OUTBURST.

When Ald. Lane announced the result of the Central Ward contest, it was received with loud cheers by those who filled the Town Hall.

Mr. Douglas Galton, in returning thanks to his supporters, alluded to the clean way in which the election had been fought and to the kindness which had been extended to him by everybody. "I have made no rash promises," he said, "but I can assure you that I shall serve you to the best of my ability and to try and follow in the footsteps of my late father." (Who was also a member of the Town Council and later an Alderman).

Mr. Herbert Druitt said: —

"You have made your choice and I hope you will like it. You have had me as your member for three years, during which time I have worked exceedingly hard for you. You will not get me again. (Voices: Hear, hear.) It has been a very great effort to me to fight this election, because I am in very bad health; but that may be or may not be, it does not matter twopence to you. When your rates go up don't come round and ask me to put up again, because I have finished with the Town Council of Christchurch. I have had quite enough of it.

"You do not know how hard I have worked on your behalf. I have been chairman of the Finance Committee and Town Planning Committee, and I have never spared myself in any way for your interests. I have done everything I could to keep your rates down, because I know that increased rates mean increased rents.

"I do not belong to what is called the 'Shopocracy.' I am a man of education and upbringing who can oppose any group; and I can assure you of this that in serving you as I have done I have been actuated by one motive—and that is to do good to you and to the Christchurch Town Council.

"But there are limits to the giving up of one's time to minding other people's business—and now I am going to give up a little time to minding my own. (Hear, hear.)

"I do not attach much importance to the prefix of Councillor. I am quite satisfied with Mister. I will give you this word of warning. You know that I have always been independent, so that you got a fair chance. You will now probably be ruled from the King's Arms Gardens—(a voice: Shut up)—and remember that this is my last word. If you will be a race of slaves be a race of slaves. I am a free man." (Boos from the audience.)

Mr. Douglas Galton remained unperturbed and dignified during this valedictory by his opponent, and put the customary vote of thanks to the Returning Officer and other officials without further comment.