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The balance of our 40 inch
Job Lawns

10 and 12c. per yard.

Civic Management.

Second Letter From Mr. Gosling.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir,—In my last letter I advanced the theory that it was useless to blame the Municipal Council for all our civic ills, and that it was our ridiculous system of government which was really at fault. I say "ridiculous" advisedly, for it is utterly absurd to expect men who are paid

50c. a day, who have very limited powers, and strictly limited funds, to transform St. John's into the city of our dreams. The Municipal Council might easily ask with the Israelites in Egypt: "How can we make bricks without straw?"

I think it is time to stop criticizing the Municipal Council, and instead to endeavour to make such changes in our system of government as will make it effective.

There has been a remarkable growth of civic pride in the U. S. and Canada in recent years. Dozens, nay hundreds, of cities have found themselves in exactly the same plight as we are, and it is most interesting and useful to learn how they have grappled with their problems.

The system of government, which has been evolved, is known as Government by Commission. To us the term is apt to be misleading, as we generally apply it to a body of persons appointed by the Governor in Council for some definite purpose, but Municipal Government by Commission will be found to be the purest and most direct type of democratic government.

The fundamental principle of Commission Government is to secure the services of efficient men to administer the affairs of the city, and to give them full and complete authority, reserving to the electors certain checks or "balances of power."

Efficient men are obtained in the usual way—by paying for them. In towns up to 30,000 to 40,000 inhabitants Mayors are paid from \$2,500 to \$3,000 and the Councillors, generally four, are paid from \$2,000 to \$2,500 per annum. They are elected for terms of two, three or four years and in practice are generally re-elected term after term. The ward system has been abolished, each member of the Commission being elected by the whole city, instead of each Councillor having a ward in his special charge. Under the new system each man is made the head of a definite department, for the conduct of which

he is responsible to the Commission and to the people.

These Departments vary in different cities, but the general division of work is as follows:—

1. Public Affairs,—under the Mayor, having general oversight over the city's business.

2. Accounts and Finance, which is self explanatory.

3. Public Safety, including the Police and Fire Department and Board of Health.

4. Streets and Public Improvements.

5. Parks and Public Property.

For obvious reasons such a division of work would not be suitable for us, and I would suggest something like the following:—

1. Public Affairs.

2. Revenue and Finance.

3. Water, Sewerage and Lighting.

4. Road making, Paving and Repaving, Street Cleaning and Watering, and the Collection of Garbage.

5. Public Health and Housing.

But very likely those who have had practical experience in the work of the Council can suggest a much better division of work than I can.

The Commissioners are generally expected to give the whole of their time to their duties, but in some cities they are only required to give five or six hours per diem. Besides having each his own department to manage, the Commissioners, under the chairmanship of the Mayor meet regularly to discuss and decide upon the general policy of their administration.

A check is placed upon our Municipal Council by the necessity it is under to submit to the Legislature on January 31st of each year, an estimate of its income and expenditure for the ensuing year, and it is not allowed by law to exceed its estimated expenditure or to raise money.

A proper check upon the action of the Municipal Council is no doubt desirable, but, in my opinion, the above is a most unreasonable hindrance to efficient government. I am told that, strictly speaking, they cannot put a new light in the streets unless it has been provided for in the estimate of expenditure.

Under the Commission form of government full legislative and administrative powers are bestowed upon the Commission. It has the right to levy taxes, to borrow money, issue bonds, lay out and pave streets, enact building regulations, grant franchises, operate water powers, lighting plants or other public utilities. In fact some cities have almost complete "home rule," and are independent almost entirely of state or provincial legislation in matters which concern the city.

When giving such comprehensive powers, it is only right and proper that some check should be provided, which while supplying a powerful corrective, when found necessary, would yet permit the larger freedom of action.

Most cities adopting Commission Government have therefore associated with it three "checks" or "balances of

power," known as the "Referendum," "Initiative" and "Recall."

The "Referendum" gives the voters the power to reverse or approve the policies of the Commission.

The "Initiative" gives them the power to insist upon new lines of policy.

The "Recall" gives them the power to dismiss any member of the Commission whose conduct is not satisfactory.

These powers are put into force by petition for a plebiscite vote to be taken upon the matter in question. The petition has to be signed by from 15 p.c. to 25 p.c. of the voters at the last election, the proposition varying in different cities.

It will thus be seen that while complete powers are given to the Commission, the final control is in the hands of the people, and can be exercised at any moment.

The first city to adopt, or rather in its case, to formulate the Commission plan of Government was Galveston, Texas, after that city was devastated by the tidal wave in 1900. The first Commission was partly appointed by the Legislature of the State and partly elective, hence it took the name "Commission," which seems rather a misnomer now that the governing bodies are entirely elective.

The work done by the Galveston Commission was so remarkable that the fame of it spread to other cities, which while spared a cataclysm such as forced a reform upon Galveston, were suffering from the more general and greater evil of mismanagement and boss rule.

By the close of 1910 about 150 cities had adopted the new system of government, and I understand that the movement has continued to find favour, but have no positive information as to the number of cities now governed by Commissions.

The history of the cities first making

the change is quite remarkable. It is one long story of triumph, of evils removed, reforms established and economies effected.

The city nearest to us to elect to try the new method is St. John, N. B. There the movement was set on foot by a Committee of the Board of Trade, but I have no information at present as to the form of the Act finally passed by the Legislature.

Now the question is whether this new system of Civic Government would suit us. It seems to me that it would, admirably, and in any case that it is worthy of very careful consideration.

One thing I am quite convinced about, and I feel sure that my conviction is shared by every thoughtful citizen, and that is the necessity of taking action immediately to obtain more efficient Civic Government.

No doubt there are many in the city who have information as to the Commission form of government, who, I hope, may be induced to make their knowledge public, whether it be for or against the system.

Yours truly,
W. G. GOSLING.

To-Night's Match

The opposing teams in to-night's game are the Casuals and B. I. S. The players will be:—

B. I. S.—Goal, Lundrigan; backs, Doyle, Buckingham; halves, Joy, Murphy, C. Murphy; forwards, Power, Ryan, Keenan, Murphy, Brennan.

Casuals.—Goal, Foster; backs, Dick, Clarke; halves, Gardner, Stevenson, Seale; forwards, Green, Cunningham, Smith, Sullivan, Ennis.

GOT GOOD FARES.—The local grounds were teeming with codfish yesterday and all the fishermen who were out got large fares.

Cable News.

Special to Evening Telegram.

MONTICELLO, N.Y., June 18. Master Wolf was naughty. Mother tried to spank him. The oil stove upset. Result, 12 business houses and three dwellings, including that of the Wolves were destroyed. Loss \$75,000.

SYDNEY, June 18.

H.M.S. Cumberland has arrived. Prince Albert with the Cadets, will attend a cricket match between Cumberland and Sydney eleven. Cumberland leaves Sydney on Thursday.

SACRAMENTO, June 18.

Racing to a hospital to save a young woman who had swallowed poison with suicidal intent, an auto, owned by Guy E. Pearce, was wrecked. Pearce was instantly killed, and the woman, Miss Grennon, fatally injured. The chauffeur, Herbert Woodall, will probably die. The party had been at a suburban ball. Miss Grennon was actuated by jealousy. Pearce volunteered to convey her to hospital.

CONSTANTINOPLE, June 18.

The new Ministry is: Grand Vizier, Prince Said Halim; War, Izzet Pasha; Interior, Talat Bey; Public Works, Osman Nuri Pasha; Commerce, Sulman El Bustani; President of Council, Halil Bey. The other ministers are unchanged.

BERLIN, June 18.

The Berlin Medical Society has pronounced against Dr. Friedmann, only Professor Schleich, who has been representing him during his absence, defended him. A vote of want of confidence was suggested, but not put.

BUFFALO, June 18.

A small boy went in to the N. Y. Central Roundhouse, climbed into the cab of an engine, pulled open the throttle and the engine started. He jumped. The locomotive ran wild through the yards at a speed of 45 miles an hour, then crashed into a freight train running in an opposite direction. The engineer, Ludcke was instantly killed, and the fireman died shortly after. Many cars were wrecked.

LONDON, June 18.

Justice Phillimore sentenced Kennedy to 18 months, Saunders 15 months, Barrett 9 months, Lake and Lennox 6 months each, and Clayton the chemist to 21 months, all with hard labor; also to costs and to be bound over to keep the peace for a year after the period of imprisonment. Prior to passing judgment the Judge gave the women some wholesome advice. Afterwards he said: "One of the Council has suggested that the time for leniency has passed, and I do not think you will meet with quite the same treatment as have others. I am bound to add that if the Home Secretary consults me, as he often consults the Judge, I shall take upon myself the responsibility of saying to him that the leaders among you at any rate should not be let out of prison under any circumstances." "Then we all die together," exclaimed Kennedy. "If you, in the words of our great poet," said the Judge, "violate the great canon the Everlasting has fixed against self-slaughter, you will have to reconcile such action to your conscience." The six started a hunger strike immediately.

Not Stuck-on Itself.



The built-in—not stuck-on—tire like Dunlop Traction Tread is the only successful Anti-Skid. Manufacturers of the stuck-on type dare not make the corrugations big enough to prevent skidding without fearing to make them so big that they will destroy resiliency.

The Cheapness of Satisfaction.

The cost of the safety which you obtain by purchasing Dunlop Traction Tread tires is insignificant in comparison with the price of neglect.

Takes a Grip on the Road.

Dunlop Traction Tread grips the road. It doesn't matter where the road is or what it is made of.

Success is Always in Evidence.

We predict that Dunlop Traction Tread will become the standard Anti-Skid tire of this country. Watch the tires as the cars go by.

FRED. V. CHESMAN, Agent.

Stocked by Parsons, The Automobile Man.

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have just received another lot of smart and Taking Millinery, but as there is already such a move on it, we advise you to see it early. Also

The Splendid Assortment of

LADIES' COLOURED BLOUSE ROBES,

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\$1.40 \$1.85 \$2.50 and \$3.00 each.

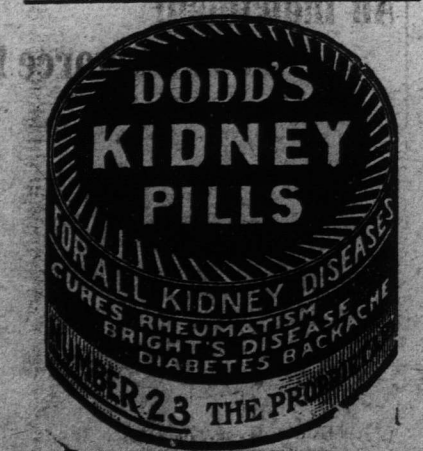
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LADIES' WHITE MUSLIN BLOUSE ROBES,

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HENRY BLAIR



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