

finances have now been reached, as the expenditures of the present year has been on a sufficiently lavish scale to exhaust the city's bank balance. No one can yet just tell how the finances will come out this year, as the bills are not yet all in but it is safe to assert that the Chamberlain will not have sufficient money on hand at the end of the year to meet them all, if payment is demanded.

In addition to a complete change in the method of administering the city's affairs as that every dollar of prospective revenue is applied to some definite purpose, and legislation obtained to prevent payment of bills out of over expended accounts it is necessary to have a new valuation of the city for assessment purposes. The first will prevent over expenditure and the last mentioned will be a step in the direction of equalizing taxation more than at present. It makes little difference how members of the Council are selected, while present conditions are permitted to continue. Expenditure is popular with the people. They like to see things being done and are always pressing the aldermen to make improvements. As these improvements cost money and were probably not considered when the estimates were made they mean over expenditure. Yet thousands of dollars are spent in this way every year, and it is not until the books for the year are made up that the aldermen really know the condition of affairs and then they are ready to go on and do the same thing over again each year.

Any change that will alter this condition of affairs will be be beneficial, but what we really want is a Common Council, pledged to carefully examine all the conditions and change them in such a manner that the reckless spending of the Council will be