

public utilities should exist for the convenience of the public and should be a means of revenue to the city. Rauschenbusch, speaking of American cities, says, "Our cities have surrendered nearly all the functions that bring an income, keeping only those that demand expenditure." Older cities have made this mistake, but many of our Canadian cities are still young and should not allow themselves to be duped in this way by private interests, or influential corporations or party politics. When party politics is allowed to interfere with city life, when strong corporations secure important franchises, when unfit, but influential persons are placed in responsible positions, then there arises a privileged class and the law is not faithfully administered and the ends of Justice are defeated. Too often the criminal escapes, and condign punishment is not meted out to the culprit, for lawyers, magistrates and other officers of the law seem to conspire together to screen the privileged man.

"The city is indeed the visible symbol of the annihilation of distance and the multiplication of interests—and yet, on the other hand, the city emphasizes locality and gives opportunity for co-operation."—Wilcox.

"Christian individuals should strengthen and protect the communistic institutions already in existence in society and help them to extend their functions."—Rauschenbusch.

How the League Elected the Mayor

From a letter written by Mr. G. W. Thompson, Fourth Vice-President of the Epworth League of Petrolia, Ontario, the following facts regarding a most enjoyable Citizenship Evening in that League are gleaned. Such an election might profitably be held in every community, and if the Leagues would busy themselves in such municipal affairs it is most probable that more efficient municipal councils would be elected in many places for 1913 than held office in 1912. The plan of the Petrolia League may easily be adapted to almost every municipality, and we advise our Fourth Vice-Presidents to busy themselves in arranging something similar for a public meeting some time during November or December, thus introducing whatever reforms and improvements may be needed in city, town or village, prior to the elections in January. Mr. Thompson says:

"... Our Citizenship Department held what was called a Nomination and Election for Mayor of the modern city of Petrolia. We had three nominations, each duly made by two responsible citizens (members of the League), in writing to the Town Clerk, who was of course chairman of the meeting. After the nominations were closed, the Clerk called on the mover of each nomination in turn to speak for his nominee.

Of course the names of the men under nomination were fictitious, and the ballot therefore was void of any unpleasant personalities. The printed ballot read thus:

FOR MAYOR, CITY OF PETROLIA.

George Henry Wilder, Manufacturer.	
James Pierpont Clark, Merchant.	
John Gilbert Smith, Oil Producer.	

A described the good qualities of Mr. Wilder, told what a good Mayor he would make, and gave his policy as to public business of all kinds in reference to Petrolia City.

B followed with the claims of Mr. J. P. Clark, and outlined his programme.

C then took his turn with J. G. Smith, in his judgment of course a model Mayor if elected.

Each speaker was supposed to take about ten minutes, but was not tied down strictly to time. The speeches were comprehensive, clear, and well received. Then a polling booth was opened and all present, as good citizens, were given the franchise. After the balloting, the representative officer and poll clerk retired to a private room with the ballot box and counted the votes. The result was that John Gilbert Smith, oil producer, was declared elected Mayor.

Of course we had our opening devotional exercises as well as closing, and we think that this evening from many standpoints was quite successful.

Some questions dealt with by the speakers were Sewerage, Sidewalks, Opening of a Market, Pavement, Y.M.C.A. Work, Local Option and Temperance, Personal Moral Influence, Public Library, Laxity of Law Enforcement, and we may say that the addresses were very instructive in matters pertaining to municipal improvement."

Mr. Thompson will, we are sure, be glad to correspond with the Fourth Vice-President of any Epworth League desiring fuller information regarding the proceedings, but any live officer can successfully work out a similar programme for his own community.

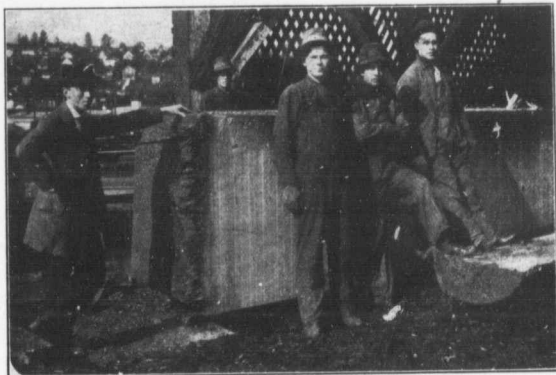
A Wayside Shrine in China

Last autumn, when walking along a country road of granite slabs, we chanced upon a wayside shrine built of solid stone. Neither the construction nor the location were at all unusual, but the dedi-

through the years they have had a superstitious dread of him lest he send sickness, plague or death. We entered the little shrine by stooping down and were amazed at the strange consistence. No idol was found within, only some incense burning in its solitude, which a worshipper, doubtless more in terror than in fear, had reverently placed in the censer. Here was a revelation. "Sheung Tai," the Lord of all, not worshipped so much as the many gods and demons of the land, because less dreaded, is nevertheless had in remembrance and has ever been from classic times. Is it not time that Christendom should say, "This god whom ye ignorantly worship we shall declare unto you?" Sitting for a moment at the door of the shrine we thanked God for even this little testimony that he had not left the land without a witness of himself, and prayed that the day might early dawn when a better knowledge of his nature and his love would erect, not in superstitious dread, but in reverent loyalty and devotion, thousands of temples fit for his worship, and when from these many pulpits would ring out from as many loyal hearts no uncertain message to those who for centuries have striven in ignorance to know a God pure and good enough to pardon and serve.—Dr. S. S. Osterhout, in *Western Methodist Recorder*.

What It Cost to Discover America

A statement made by a Madrid correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* reports the discovery in Palos, Spain, of some old account-books which are said to contain somewhat detailed information of the expense involved in the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. The total amount for fitting out the expedition and paying the expenses of the voyage, which lasted eight months, was some 36,000 pesetas, or about \$7,000. Of this amount Ferdinand and Isabella are estimated to



6. A FINE STICK OF PERFECT SQUARED TIMBER.

catory inscription was, for over the little door was chiselled into the adamant the words "Sheung Tai." A descendant of Confucius writes in the first century before Christ, of this "Sheung Tai," "God is the Lord who produces things—the author of prosperity and increase." Here before us was convincing testimony that all through the centuries the people have been hungering for God and have worshipped him by keeping the incense burning in this lonely little shrine, else all

have furnished \$4,500, and this insignificant sum, as we reckon in these days, they had to borrow! It is to be considered, however, that money had then ten times, or more, the purchasing power that it has now. But even so the vast increase in the world's wealth is indicated, for \$70,000 would be but a comparatively small sum to spend on such an enterprise. The heroism involved is none the less, rather greater.