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THE ISLAND PARKS COMMISSION.

THE proposed Parks Commission for the Island of Montreal is a good enough idea, so far, as it goes; but it does not go far enough, unless it goes far beyond what its name suggests. What is wanted first of all, is not a local permanent commission composed of men with real estate axes to grind; but a commission of experts preferably from abroad, and independent of local influences to devise a general plan for the laying out of the greater Montreal, which will cover the whole island. It is time we had a comprehensive scheme of parks and play grounds, of railways and boulevards, of roads and drainage, to prevent costly mistakes in the near future, which will be more costly to rectify in the more remote, but not distant future. It is work, not for real estate speculators, but for experienced landscape gardeners, architects and engineers, who have seen something of what has been accomplished in the greatest and best laid-out cities in the world. A permanent local commission to superintend and improve all the parks on the island might very properly follow. We can learn much from the successes of cities like London, New York, Paris and Berlin in this direction, and we can learn a lot more from their mistakes. A comprehensive plan of island improvement would facilitate the cooperation of private, with public enterprise. The real estate investor would know where to build stately homes, and lay out great gardens and private parks, and where to erect factories and workmen's cottages. There is all the difference in the world between a city designed, and a city which just happened.

THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE BOARD OF CONTROL.

INEVITABLY a conflict of jurisdiction has arisen at the City Hall between the City Council and the Board of Control. Some of the aldermen are evidently anxious to save the controllers the trouble of administering the affairs of the city, which they were elected to administer, and are paid to administer. The question has arisen over the appointment of park superintendents. The merits of the appointments do not enter into the question of jurisdiction at all. The important issue for the public is whether the City Council or the Board of Control is to make civic appointments. The Board was created for the express purpose of putting an end to the

system of aldermanic or ward patronage, which has been the curse of the city. If the Council is to have anything to do with the appointment or the dismissal of civic employees, our rejoicings over the abolition of the patronage evil were premature. This does not necessarily mean that the present Council would abuse any powers that it might exercise in this connection, but that it, or its successors would have the power to nullify every possible advantage to be gained by having a Board of Control. There seems to be an impression among the aldermen that the City Council is a superior body to the Board of Control. We do not know of anything in the present constitution to justify this assumption. The aldermen are elected by the popular vote, but so also are the controllers, and every one of them represents a greater constituency than any alderman. The controllers are not the servants of the Council, they are as a body at least its equals. The Quebec Legislature will probably amend the charter, so as to define more precisely the respective jurisdictions of each body. The definition will most likely be of a nature to restrict the Council to legislative authority, and to place upon the Board of Control without reserve the responsibility of administration.

QUEBEC'S PULP-WOOD POLICY.

THE announcement of the Gouin government's policy with regard to pulp-wood cut on crown lands, is said to have created a serious situation in the paper trade of the United States; and many paper mills are embarrassed by the prohibition of the exportation of Quebec pulp-wood in an unmanufactured condition. While this is regrettable it is inevitable. The natural remedy is to manufacture the pulp where the pulp-wood grows, in Canada. Canadians have certainly the first claim upon the natural resources of Canada, and to permit the raw product of Canadian forests, to be used up by American manufacturers and American labour protected from the competition of Canadian manufacturers and Canadian labour, by customs duties, is nothing short of a national crime. The Gouin policy is intended both for the protection of Canadian labour and the preservation of Canadian forests, and has been adopted none too soon for the public interest. If some of the paper manufacturers of the United States like to come up here and invest their capital in this country and employ Canadian labour, they will be as welcome, as the flowers in May.

