

## *The Hour Has Come.*

THE people are constantly remarking on the small calibre of the average mayor and alderman elected to supervise the important affairs of Ontario cities. An object lesson is furnished by the City of Ottawa at the present time, which will be wholly lost to the persons to blame. Still there is no harm in drawing attention to it. At Christmas time the people of Ottawa were exhorted to elect as mayor of this capital J. A. Ellis. He posed as a reformer, financier, and honest man who was going, if elected to devote himself to the service of the city. What has happened? Mr J. A. Ellis was taken at his word, particularly by men who regard themselves as better than others, and elected. Three weeks later he had abandoned the city and is today spending the best part of his time—not attending to the duties entrusted to him—but in canvassing for a small job under the provincial government. He has forsworn himself. He pleaded publicly on every platform that he desired a second term. He now demonstrates that he does not want a second term. He admits, by his action, that he has not the interests of the city so much at heart as the interests of J. A. Ellis. He admits that he can be weaned

away by the mere prospect of a salaried office under the provincial government. The moral is that the city of Ottawa should not be brought under the controlling influence of a body of men who took up Mr. Ellis in order to defeat a citizen who was of sufficient substance and had sufficient business interests to make him independent of government jobs. The fiasco might serve as a warning except that the people responsible are impervious. The proper remedy is to place the Capital of Canada under a Commission appointed by the federal government, as suggested a few weeks ago in these columns. We have urged this course more than once, and it has now been taken up by the city council which on Monday night adopted a resolution to send a deputation to the government to see if it can be arranged. The Laurier Administration have now the opportunity of a lifetime to create Ottawa and suburbs into a federal area so as to guard against difficulties as to fire, water supply, public buildings, the taxation of servants of the crown, riots, collision of authority with the Ontario officials, and in many other ways make Ottawa a city beautiful.

