

One would think it entirely unwise to take any step which would result in a weakening of the mutual confidence of the people of a country by disassociating a large number of the leading spirits in each neighborhood who are now sent to county council largely because they are confided in by their neighbors. If this mutual political confidence can be enlarged through the association of these leaders so as to become the confidence of counties instead of the confidence of neighborhoods, it were no bad thing, and is possibly worth more to the community than the per diem saving to be affected by the new bill.

It has been said that the cost of county councils, as compared with the controllable expenditure under their supervision, is unreasonably large.

Adopting this principle and applying it to other public bodies one gets strange results. Suppose for example that one deducts from the annual expenditure of the province all the amounts paid for fixed services, and other expenditures which must be made annually and over the amount of which the government of the day has practically no control. Then strike a proportion between the balance thus obtained and the annual cost of the House. Lay the result of this operation alongside the result obtained by comparing the uncontrollable expenditure of an average county with the cost of its county councils, and the county will not appear to a disadvantage. It is not meant to insinuate that the cost of the Provincial Parliament is unreasonably large, but rather to suggest that the test which has been made to do duty against the county councils is not safe in principle. In truth, a political body might be of first-rate importance and not expend a dollar. The county council has large and varied spheres of usefulness outside the mere spending of money.

It was urged by leading members of the Ontario House that county councillors would never advise the abolition of their own office and that opposition to the bill must be expected from them. Some little knowledge of the men who occupy seats in the House as well as of those who sit in county councils leads to the observation that a great number of the men who are elected to the county councils have in all human probability the good of their respective counties just as closely at heart as the gentlemen who urge this doctrine—indeed, it is doubtful if the members of the local parliament have a monopoly of the strong desire for the welfare of the province itself.

It would not be fair to criticise the minor provisions of the bill. If the principle involved is a wise one the bill will grow into harmony by amendment.

While not in any sense seeking to condemn the step taken by the House in this matter, one might be permitted to express the opinion that it would be well to hold the bill in abeyance for a time. All of the

county councils, in their June session, shall have had an opportunity to express opinions upon it. It is thought that amendments worth incorporating in the bill will be suggested in some of the county councils, and it would be a mistake to create, in introducing the bill, any friction that can be avoided. Speaking as a student of municipal councils, and approaching the subject from a purely academic standpoint, it must be admitted that although the financial argument—if it really be founded in fact—is a powerful one and may outweigh all other considerations, yet a thoughtful examination of the multiform influences and forces engendered by the county council with their result upon our political life has thrown most serious doubt on that view.

#### An Act to Provide for the Inspection of Meat and Milk Supplies of Cities and Towns.

1.—(1) The municipal council of every city or town may, by by-law provide for the establishment of a public slaughter house, or abattoir within the limits of the municipality, or in such adjoining municipality as shall by by-law sanction its erection therein, and for the construction of cattle yards and pens for the proper keeping therein of animals intended for slaughter, and for charging fees to defray the costs incurred by the local board of health, in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) Every such slaughter house, or abattoir and cattle yard and pen, shall be constructed, equipped and regulated in conformity with any regulations in that behalf, from time to time adopted by the Provincial Board of Health, and approved by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council.

2.—(1) The local board of health of every city or town, in which such slaughter house or abattoir, cattle yard or pens may be established, shall have the control and supervision of the same, and shall be responsible for the due carrying out of the regulations of the Provincial Board of Health made in connection therewith; and the costs of the supervision and inspection carried out under this act, or of any regulations made under it with regard to slaughter houses or abattoirs, or cattle yards or pens, or in carrying out any other provisions of this act, shall be paid from time to time by the treasurer of the city or town, out of the fees charged for such slaughter or inspection, on the order of the local board of health.

(2) The powers conferred upon local boards of health and their officers, section 99 of the Public Health Act, shall apply in the supervision and inspection carried on under this act.

3. The local board of health of every city and town where such cattle yards and pens are established, may employ one or more competent persons, approved of by the medical health officer, to inspect at such slaughter house or abattoir, or at such cattle yards or pens, all animals, car-

cases, and meat brought into the municipality and intended for human food.

4.—(1) The local board of health of every city and town may, in addition to periodical examinations as to purity of public milk supplies, and as to the sanitary condition of the byres, or places where cows for public milk supplies are kept, inspect every milch cow kept therein, as to its general health. In addition to such general inspection, the local board of health may provide for the testing with tuberculin, by a registered veterinary surgeon of every cow kept in such byres or places for the diagnosis of tuberculosis.

(2) Every cow may be tested, and thereafter dealt with according to the methods set forth in the regulations adopted by the Provincial Board of Health, and approved of by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

5. Any meat packing establishment heretofore, or hereafter erected within the limits of any municipality in Ontario, shall be subject to inspection in a manner similar to that of the municipal slaughter houses or abattoir.

#### A Nuisance.

Neither is the fact that the business has been carried on, or the use of property indulged in for a great length of time, any defence to the indictment for a nuisance. The law is, that no length of time can prescribe for a public nuisance of any description. Neither is it any defence that when the nuisance was established it was in a convenient place, and that the public have come to the nuisance, either by the extension of the town or the opening of highways and streets.—*Wood on Nuisances, page 83.*

The town of Whitby has just delivered to G. A. Stimson & Co., of Toronto, \$22,850, 4 per cent. 40 year debentures. The bonds form part of their consolidated debt and the town received a good figure from Messrs. Stimson & Co.

No plague or epidemic which has ever visited this country can in any way be compared with tuberculosis in the number of its victims claimed yearly. We find from statistics that the deaths from all the recognized infectious and epidemic diseases, such as small-pox, typhoid, scarlatina, measles, diphtheria, cholera, etc., added together, do not half equal those of consumption.—*Columbus Med. Journal.*

Do you know a good roads sermon when you hear it? On the poorest of earth roads, not muddy, but sandy, a horse can draw twice as much as he can carry on his back; on a fair road, three and a half times as much; on a good macadamized road, nine times as much; on a smooth plank road, twenty-five times as much; on a stone trackway, thirty-five times as much, and on metal rails, fifty-four times as much. The men who use roads can therefore make money by improving the roads rather than buying new horses every year.