

(Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta), and the 'municipal districts' of Tasmania, are, apparently, in a similar transition stage. We may say, perhaps, without much fear of hasty generalization, that this large unit is, in the self-governing Dominions, the product of a desire to improve the means of locomotion and public health. But we must note, that its powers are considerably less than those of the county in England; because the systems of police, public elementary education, water-supply, liquor licences, and other important matters, are more completely in the hands of the central governments in the self-governing Dominions than is the case in England.

COUNTY COUNCILS

Naturally, in countries like the self-governing Dominions, the principle of elected representative councils is almost universal in the shires and counties. Here, again, we notice a striking exception in the cases of Quebec and Ontario, where the county council consists of the 'mayors' or 'reeves' of the parishes, or village *communes*, who are, however, themselves elected by the inhabitants of the parish. In other cases, the county councils are directly elected, usually on a rate-paying franchise, for different 'wards' or 'parishes' which are merely electoral areas. Each council, as a rule, elects an annual 'chairman,' 'warden,' or (in Quebec) 'prefect'; but in Saskatchewan there is a popularly elected 'reeve' as chairman of the council. Nearly all, if not all, of these county councils have power to make by-laws, subject to the approval of a central authority; but, in Saskatchewan and Alberta, any by-law involving the expenditure of funds must be referred to the electors for confirmation.

URBAN MUNICIPALITIES

It is again one of the characteristics of the self-governing Dominions, that urban self-government, the