

for a special purpose, may be made responsible to the mayor, and through him to the community whose funds they are handling. In general it may be said that the constitution of the common council of a city is the great unsolved problem of to-day. It seems clear that, whatever else is done, the power of interference by the legislative body with the executive, in any way, should be reduced to a minimum.

FORESIGHT AND CIVIC COURAGE.

It seems probable that the form of organization which has been suggested in this paper, that is, a city government in which the mayor is the real head rather than the nominal head only, will tend to secure these good qualities more generally than they have appeared in connection with city governments in the past. Under such an organization the mayor feels the inspiration of the great city behind him. He occupies a position where, for the moment, he embodies the aspirations and hopes of the community as such. It is natural for one so placed to look forward, as well as to consider matters of current administrations. The powers which are entrusted to the mayor in such a case invite the service of the best men in the city. It is worth while for any citizen to be mayor of a city, with such powers and opportunities. The system, therefore, tends in the right direction; but after all, the main hope lies in the public spirit of the people themselves. They must have an intelligent pride and interest in the future of their city, so as to demand for it from their officials not only good current care, but also wise provision for the future. This is the foundation upon which all hope of better city government must ultimately rest. The voters of a city must be kept informed as to its needs.—In this respect our newspapers have been sadly wanting. It will be noticed with regret, by those able to judge, how very few civic issues are stated faithfully by our newspapers, viz, where the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth is plainly told.—That a large public spirit may be encouraged three things are essential. First, that citizens shall believe the city government is easily within their control. Second, that the voice of the rate payer shall be fully and intelligently declared at elections. Third, that their natural pride in their city shall be fostered by every means which can develop in a population civic courage and a high ideal for their city. So long as the people feel that the officers whom they elect have little power to do harm, even if they can accomplish little good, elections necessarily tend to become purely and simply strifes for office. Let them feel that vital consequences to the city are at stake in the issue, and the citizens will become influential in their demand for the choice of good men, precisely in proportion to the seriousness of the results which they believe to be involved.