

only power it knows is the power of financial or political "pull!"

Inefficiency in Local Government

Here is a municipality, again one of many, in which no man of first rate moral or religious standing has been elected to the council for years. Second, third or fourth rate men are always the choice. And the business is done on second, third or fourth rate methods. Partyism, favoritism, personal animus, grab and graft are frequently in evidence. Road money is squandered by hundreds of dollars every year on patch work that has no permanent value. Efficiency and continuity of policy are utterly absent. Certification upon adequate inspection of work done is the exception, not the rule. Accounting, if it can be given that name at all, is done in the most slipshod fashion, and it is no uncommon thing to find officials quite at sea as to where sums of money, greater or less have gone. Such a thing as having the business of the municipality transacted with Christian principle as the dominating influence is undreamed of. Yet the municipality is crammed with Christian churches, and there are many hundreds of church members. But apparently they have been and are perfectly satisfied that things municipal should not yet be Christianized, or even brought up to the plane of ordinary business dealing.

A Doped Political Convention

Here is a political convention. A candidate is to be selected. If all the truth be told he is already selected by a few of those who have a special grip of things. A number of names are placed before the convention. The people are led to think they are working under a free and efficient democracy. In reality they are following the lead of a small group of crafty political engineers. The carefully constructed and well-oiled "machine" is at work and is grinding out the results which the bosses had designed. The church is far away, and she has not yet taught her people that the true Christian ought to be politically as well as in other respects awake and alert and active. The average man has never had it impressed upon him by those to whom he rightfully looks for direction that he ought to know what primaries and caucuses and committees are meeting in his neighborhood, and that he ought to be making his type of manhood, his kind of spirit, one of the influences by which their decisions are determined. He does not recognize today that as a Christian it is up to him to make his Christianity a factor, and so far as possible a dominant factor in the deliberations and decisions of local groups, social, economic and political. It has never in any definite way dawned upon him that he is personally responsible for practically working toward the regeneration of the community life and making his neighborhood over, so that in the ordinary workings of its life it shall be after the Christian pattern of things. And because men still fail to see and accept that responsibility multitudes still dream that the Kingdom will come—somehow or other—without Christianity being applied to affairs political.

A Rink Run Community

Here is a little prairie town of three hundred people. During the winter the two churches which serve the community endeavor to concentrate their efforts. They seek to gather the young people for social and moral and civic and religious training and general betterment. But the skating rink in the town is run for profit and is open six nights a week. Nine-tenths of the community are professedly Christian, but five-sixths of the young people attend the rink and do not attend the social and other gatherings provided by the churches. Good people sigh, but they do nothing to banish the profiteering element in the amusement, nothing to secure that the rink shall be run in sympathy with the general community feeling and not in opposition to it. They do not recognize the folly of a community wishing its young people to be in one place, and at the same time deliberately opening the door of another place for them with a practically irresistible attraction soliciting their presence. Christianity in that community does not deem it really necessary to

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