

## CIVIC REPRESENTATION.

An agitation has been started to change the manner of electing the aldermen. In 1894 a number of gentlemen formed themselves into an organization known as the Tax Reduction Association. After a number of meetings, and a general discussion of civic management it was decided to appeal to the legislature to reduce the number of aldermen to fifteen, one from each ward, and two from the city at large, but as a matter of fact they were all to be aldermen at large, as they were elected by the vote of the whole people. In the case of an alderman representing a ward, it was required that he should either reside in or do business in the ward before he could seek election. This legislation was opposed by the Common Council, but it passed the House of Assembly and became law and resulted in an almost complete overturn in the Council. The present system of electing aldermen has been in operation now for ten years and has failed in its intention, as taxes have increased instead of being decreased. This would almost argue that the manner of electing aldermen has very little to do with taxation. The result has been the same whether the aldermen were elected by wards or by the vote of the city.

The cause of St. John's present financial position has its source in a totally different direction than the manner of selecting aldermen. There certainly has been laxity, carelessness and blundering in the management of the business of the city, but there was no improvement effected by the movement fathered by