

CITY CLERK WRITES AFTER ON RADICAL SUGGESTIONS MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY

Need For Sharply Defining Legislative and Adminis- trative Functions Pointed Out—City Manager Idea Is Explained.

City Clerk Sam Baker has prepared a paper on "Defects of Municipal Government," which will be read at the coming convention of the Provincial Municipal Union, to be held in Toronto next week. He offers some timely suggestions for improvement, and is decidedly in favor of centralizing municipal effort. All the present independent organizations, which now very frequently work at cross-purposes, would be organized under one central body, which would make for better control of expenditure and economy. The paper is as follows:

Defects of Present System.
In order to secure the best of municipal government reform, it is deemed imperative that the defects of the present system be pointed out. It is not enough to point out defects and suggest reforms, as such acts lead to vague and indefinite action and often to vicious results. The question of municipal reform is a whole. At municipal associations, constant tinkering and amendments to the municipal act, proposed by various bodies, have not only failed to bring about any real improvement, but have also created a confusion of jurisdictions and have not been able to bring about any real improvement. The Toronto Bureau of Research, in their third annual report, states, under the heading of "Simplified Forms of Municipal Government," that the most important ideas are:

- (1) The separation of the legislative and administrative functions of government.
- (2) Giving home rule to cities in all matters which do not affect the interest of the province as a whole.
- (3) A method of more direct interest and control by the ratepayer.
- (4) Centralization of functions of government.

Perhaps, both of these ideas may be briefly summarized as follows: The first idea is to have municipal corporations and municipalities to have a more direct interest and control by the ratepayer. The second idea is to have a more direct interest and control by the ratepayer.

Centralization of Functions.
At the city manager meeting held in London last fall, the following resolutions were adopted: That the city manager be given the right to appoint and dismiss all city officers, and that the city manager be given the right to appoint and dismiss all city officers, and that the city manager be given the right to appoint and dismiss all city officers.

Municipal Home Rule.
Giving cities home rule in all matters which do not affect the interest of the province as a whole. This is a very important idea, and it is one which should be given serious consideration.

PATENTS.
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GERMAN REFORMER

Financia, Market and Commercial Section

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