

forces and legal authorities in the discharge of their duty is even more to be welcomed and encouraged. Following that—if need be—there should be work by community influence upon legislators to ensure changes in the law so that pettifogging lawyers and “technicalities” may not be allowed to defeat—or even unreasonably delay—the administration of justice.

CITY COUNCIL AMENITIES

When accusations are made, especially in public, resentment rises readily in most men's minds, but for the credit of the City of Vancouver we trust that such passages at arms as have just been reported in the press as having taken place at the Council Board between the two members who are now understood to be candidates for the mayoralty chair of 1918, will not be repeated. As the date of the contest approaches it is natural that the words and actions of Council members should have additional significance, because of their possible influence on the electorate. But Mayor McBeath, no less than the other councillors, may rest assured that with none but the thoughtless, indifferent, or easily-influenced citizens will any change of front by councillors or candidates on the eve of the election be allowed to cloud the impressions gained of character and conduct from the attitude taken or opinions expressed throughout the year.

We venture to suggest that the Mayor of the city would better consult his own dignity and still more the dignity of the city he represents, if he ignored such personal remarks as were reported to have been addressed to him the other day. Mayor McBeath has already been endorsed by citizens interested in moral well being and progress, and so far it is doubtful if any candidate other than Alderman Gale will enter the field. In that event we believe Mayor McBeath will be elected for a third term.

Notes and Comments

By REV. R. G. MacBETH, M. A.

THE HALIFAX HOLOCAUST

The colossal scale of the disaster in the old port city on the Atlantic seaboard has, for a time, dwarfed the war itself and thrust the ordinary questions of the day into the background. The full extent of the calamity is not known at the time of this writing, but we are aware of sufficient to be able to say that nothing in the history of Canada is at all comparable to this Halifax holocaust. The foreshore around the famous harbor became a funeral pyre in a few moments, and the fury of the winter blizzard added its quota to the unspeakable desolation. The cause of the explosion may not be definitely ascertained for some time, but in the meantime the duty of civilization is to ameliorate the suffering and the privation which are being experienced by the survivors. And it is good to know that the tremendous slaughter which has turned Europe into a shambles has not dulled the heart of the world to the value of human life. The loss of property in Halifax is vast in amount, but it is lost sight of in the presence of the mangled form of the smallest child that perished on that terrible day. We predict extraordinary efforts to alleviate the situation. While the cause of the disaster may never be traced absolutely to its source, it is safe to say that the importance

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