

civic administration, few cities can have much less satisfactory municipal conditions than Washington. I regret that owing to the very limited time at my disposal, 20 min., to treat this vast question, I cannot go into many details on this point, but I will be glad to hand these papers over to our friends opposite after the debate, that they may enlighten themselves a bit on this matter. Suffice it to say that it is pointed out that the extravagance of the administration of Washington is notorious. \$64,000 a year is spent in an assessment office, with 34 clerks, while \$23,000 is enough for a city of the same size like Buffalo, and \$8,000 for Ottawa,  $\frac{1}{4}$  its size. The city is full of citizens' associations continually demanding reforms regarding the inequality of the assessment, the inadequacy of the fire department and police service, the construction of pavements and sewers, and so on, but their protests are seldom heeded, for those to whom they make them are in no way responsible to the people. In the *Times* of Dec. 13 we find that Mr. J. B. Reynolds, a personal friend of President Roosevelt, who was specially appointed to investigate the housing and sanitary conditions of Washington, reports that it contains more typhoid and tuberculosis, and that its slums are more degraded and unsanitary than any ever before found in New York. His report is expected to bring a special message to Congress. Yet, sir, in the face of all this discordant and mal-administration our opponents would have you infer from conditions at Washington that by the adoption of a similar plan here they would make of Ottawa, Hull, Janeville, etc., a little heaven on earth, if such a thing could be imagined. To say the least, their position borders on the ridiculous. I do not wish to say that Washington is any worse governed than other cities under a different system, but I do say that her people are living in no such state of civic bliss as our friends opposite would have you believe they are. There is now a prominent citizen of Ottawa well acquainted with the conditions in both cities who puts the case: "If I heard as much kicking in Ottawa in six months as there is in Washington in six days I would want to get out of the city tomorrow."

Now, at the outset, I wish to deny most emphatically the statement that Washington and Ottawa are anything like parallel cases. In support of this assertion I will quote you an extract from an article on Washington in the *Encyclopædia Americana*, one of the most up-to-date works of its kind. It says: "The District of Columbia was established under the authority and direction of Acts of