

never had before, a certain amount of funded wealth. He is in danger of becoming a capitalist. That may result either in the formation of a labour party stronger and more responsible than before or in the gradual attrition of the more robust factors in Liberalism. But, up to this time, the characteristic of Scottish politics have been its liberalism, and its intelligent and unfettered discussion of a political situation. Anyone who ever heard an Englishman who was a purely party candidate being heckled by one of the electors who had been carefully preparing traps for some weeks previously is never likely to forget the experience. There was on the part of the heckler a bewildering mastery of the political history of the past half century and a familiarity with the peculiarities of taxation that put the onus on the defence. It was not for nothing that Adam Smith was a Scotchman.

But the Scotchman's ability in public affairs does not confine itself to mere criticism. In *municipal management* there is a rare amount of genuine interest displayed. The readers of John Galt will remember the delightful picture of the "Provost"; and this habit of taking municipal affairs seriously has not broken down with the passing of the years. The best men are proud to have the handling of local administration and scandals are unknown. Into the work of Town Councils and School Boards there is put an amount of voluntary toil which is amazing, but the labour has its reward in the respect and recognition of the community. To be a "Bailie" is to have reached a pinnacle—the Bailie is the unpaid local magistrate—and however fond the Scot may be of arguing the point he is quite aware of the fact that authority must reside somewhere and he is most content to recognize it in the men whom he is meeting every day in the business life. The administration of Glasgow has its equal nowhere in the world. It seems to have solved the problem of municipal ownership, and to have discovered that public utilities can belong to the public and have the returns go back to the public in improved service or in reduced taxation. It took a great war to teach the British Government that if you wanted a great government concern to be run in a business-like way it