

established. It is interesting to notice that a strip of land is sometimes attached by local custom to a manor park, a forest, or an estate. Thus Richmond Park has a free boundary of sixteen and a half feet outside its boundary wall.

I, BRICK COURT, TEMPLE.

W. VALENTINE BALI.

### *FLAWS IN OUR MUNICIPAL SYSTEM.*

Public attention has recently been called to the gross mismanagement of money matters of some of the larger cities of the Dominion. This is largely the fault of a municipal system which, though reasonably effective in rural districts, has proved a failure in urban centres. The Commissioner of Finance of the City of Toronto, who is probably the best authority we have on the subject, recently criticised in severe terms the treatment of financial matters in various departments of the city of Toronto. He condemned especially the present mode of dealing with public utilities which he insisted should bear their proper share of the city's burden. The failure in this regard has he says caused disaster and injustice.

One phase of this subject is thus referred to in a leading financial periodical:—"Add to those instances the fact that the Hydro-Electric System, with an investment of \$70,000,000 per year, pays no taxes, where private enterprise would be called upon to hand over more than \$1,500,000 per year, and that, through street service and other charges, the ratepayers pay indirectly for their cheap house lighting, etc." It is not difficult to see how unjustly and disastrously, in a variety of ways, the system above referred to works out.

What is said to be the best governed city on this continent has discarded boards of aldermen and baneful political influence by having its affairs (most satisfactorily and economically) managed by a commission of three first class and highly-paid commissioners. The position of these Commissioners is looked upon as one of high honour, whereas, under our municipal system, high-class men, declining to step into the mire of ward politics, stand aloof, and the public suffer accordingly. It is high time that some change should be made in the direction above indicated.