

TOWN MANAGER PLAN A SUCCESS

The town manager plan of civic government seems to be working out remarkably well in Woodstock, N. B., judging by the glowing reports submitted at a public meeting of the ratepayers of that town last week. The close of the fiscal year found all bills paid and a snug balance of \$8,421 standing to the credit of the town. The gentleman who fills the important position of Town Manager of Woodstock is Mr. Fraser Armstrong, a civil engineer by profession and a graduate of the University of New Brunswick. He is paid a salary of \$3,000 a year and there is not the slightest doubt but that he earns the money. He works under the direction of the Town Council and has full charge of all the civic business. Public works are carried on under his direction, he purchases all supplies for the town and looks after the collection of the civic revenue. He seems to be on the job the whole time and sees to it that the town gets full value for every dollar expended. In commenting editorially on the reports submitted by the Town Manager at the public meeting recently the "Sentinel" newspaper has this to say concerning the system:

"Thanks to the good sense of the citizens we are operating under the town manager plan of civic government and all monies are expended under the supervision of a trained engineer, who is free from all local entanglements, and whose sole aim and ambition is to get the last penny of service out of every dollar that is placed in his hands to spend. The town manager is insurance against waste, and if there is anything that dries up tax sources, controlled directly by the people, it is waste. In the report submitted Monday night, the citizens were taken into the manager's confidence. He placed the cards on the table, face up, and then, having stated facts and removed the fancies of the misinformed, the result was left to the independent judgement of the individual taxpayer. The whole town business was an open book and the results shown is a convincing illustration of the superiority of the new method over the old system when desired results were obtained by indirection and manipulation."

That the Mayor was well pleased with the results of the town manager system is attested by some observations which he made at the meeting referred to, and the Sentinel reports him as saying:

"I spent two years at this board under the old conditions—I have followed the affairs of the town very closely this year, and I am thoroughly convinced that the town of Woodstock has been losing annually from \$2500 to \$4000 in uncollected taxes and water rates. It was no uncommon thing to carry over a defaulters' list of \$3,500 to \$4,000 and re-assess the second time the man that has already paid. Year after year bonds were issued for \$1000 and \$2000 to cover payments that should have been paid out of current revenue. The showing made by our manager this year, in the face of adverse conditions, is conclusive proof that not only is the system right but the man occupying the position of manager is giving it the most careful business attention. I would also call your attention to the fact that the statement for the year 1920 showed a credit balance of \$7,756.51—something quite out of the ordinary; \$6,000 of this was used to reduce the 1921 assessment and now we come down this year with a credit balance of \$8,421.90, with all accounts paid."

"I feel," said the mayor, "that had we adopted the manager system years ago, and been fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. Armstrong (our present manager) the town of Woodstock would have been many thousands of dollars better off."

WASTING (?) THE RATEPAYER'S MONEY

The Ottawa Citizen publishes a despatch from its Brockville correspondent reporting the appointment in Westport, Ont., of Jerry Steele as constable, street commissioner, sanitary inspector, school attendance officer, pound-keeper, dog tax collector and officer to enforce the Ontario temperance act and caretaker of the town hall and other municipal buildings at a salary of \$200 per annum.

Because of the high cost of gasoline in Cuba, alcohol is used in automobiles in place of the ordinary fuel. The price of gasoline has dropped from 54 cents to 45 cents a gallon. Alcohol is selling at 35 cents a gallon, which is susceptible to reduction if gasoline continues to drop.

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WHERE SHALL I SPEND MY EARNINGS?

WHILE it must be conceded that as a general principle one has a right to spend his money as he pleases, there are considerations that should exercise certain restraint upon one. But really, is it "my money" that I earn? If I can earn \$2,500 a year, I may think it is mine to do as I please. But as I may be thinking that way, along comes the Government and says to me: 4 per cent. of what you earned over \$2,000 is mine in the shape of income tax. I may feel like objecting, but on second thought I say nothing and fork over. Hardly am I through when along comes the assessor and tells me to go and hand some of "my money" to the support of the school. Now, I kick of course, but, I hand it over, only to be told by the collector that that is not enough, I must hand over some more of "my money" to the keeping up of the roads, bridges, electric lights, county home, etc., etc. I kick worse than ever, but I have learned I must pay, and I pay. That part of it is not "my money". Thinking I am through paying out "my money" without getting any tangible returns, I bundle up what I have left and as I get ready to tie up the stockings I was going to hide it in, along comes the church treasurer and tells me about one-tenth of one per cent., or more is required to pay preacher's salary and heat the church during the winter. I know this cannot be collected by law, but I make use of the church some times or I might want to have my funeral there some day, so I pay. Then comes the lodge, the community picnic, the help to Mrs. Black whose husband died and left her six children, the choral society, whist club and other social functions. True I did not have to "pony up" to any of these institutions but I want to be a good citizen and my civic pride did not permit me to be a slacker. I had now contributed of "my money" to almost everything in the town except to the town itself, that is to that which makes the town, that without which there would be no town—its business institutions.

I had sent my washing to the

next town because I did not like the way the laundryman's children talked to my children.

I had sent my glasses to "the city" to be repaired; our own optician being a neighbor, don't know anything.

I had sent to Halifax for a carpenter to fix up my sidewalk, because our home carpenter lived in too good a house. I sent to St. John for my gasoline, to Moncton for my chicken feed and groceries. I wasn't going to let our business men have any of "my money" because they were all charging too much, they didn't carry a good quality of goods and they were not a bit accommodating. I sent to Moncton for my dry goods because our stores at home do not keep any assortment. In fact, I had sent "my money" anywhere I wanted to because I earned it and it was "my money". But now, is it "my money"? If I am under obligation to give up part of it to the government, the schools, roads and bridges, churches and the hundred and one different things that are a part of my community, then why am I not under equal obligation to the very heart of my town—that without which there would be no town.

If there was not a blacksmith shop where I could spend it for repairs, a tailor shop where I could spend it for work and cleaning, a grocery store where I could spend it for food, a dry goods store where I could spend it for dry goods, a school where I could spend it for learning, a bank where I could leave my valuables for safe keeping, a printing office where I could have my printing done, a dentist where I could get my teeth fixed, a lawyer, where I could buy legal advice—if there were none of these and other institutions, where would be the town?—and if all the people in town did all their business affairs "anywhere they pleased" meaning, "anywhere except home" where would all these business institutions be?—and if I am under obligations to support the street, why not the institutions by the street? If I must contribute to the support of the village light, why not to the business house in front of the light. If I am obliged to contribute to the health department, why not to the home doctor, who

is there on the job? Am I not under moral obligation to play fair with every institution which makes the town? If I want to be a good citizen can I truthfully say that is "my money" and I am going to see that no one of our home institutions gets the handling of it. Can I be honest, with myself and with my fellow citizens by playing Chinaman and take everything out without putting anything in?

GREENWICH ITEMS

Alonzo Harvey, who recently fell on the ice, breaking his right arm above the elbow, is progressing finely toward recovery.

Mr. Lovitt Forsythe and family recently moved to Port Williams to the James Kennick house. Mr. Forsythe having purchased the home and a part of the farm from Mr. Dexter Collins, who purchased the whole property from Mr. Kennick.

Our Plumber, Mr. B. L. Cox and assistants, have been unusually busy since the very cold weather first three days last week, having received calls from as far away as Hantsport for frozen pipes, etc.

Mr. Charles MacKenzie, of this place, is very busily repairing automobiles at Port Williams, having rented the garage in Mr. George Chase's new building. Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie returned to their home here about two weeks ago, after a stay of a few weeks in Wolfville owing to the illness and death of Mrs. MacKenzie's father, Mr. D. B. Shaw.

We welcome to our community Mr. Edward C. Hennigar and bride, who took possession of their home here a few weeks ago, on the return from their wedding trip to the United States. Mrs. Hennigar will receive Thursday afternoon this week.

The friends of Mrs. Byron Cox, extend sympathy to her in her recent bereavement, the death of her sister, Mrs. Dr. Bowles. Mrs. Cox has been enjoying a visit from her sister, Mrs. Tompkins, of Florida, who was called home on account of the serious illness of her sister. Mrs. Tompkins left last Friday morning to return to her home in the sunny South.

Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Brown, of British Columbia, who were

guests at Mrs. Brown's old home in Grand Pre recently, visited friends in this place one day during that time. The Browns were former residents here, Mr. Brown being in charge of the station a few years ago.

Miss Woodard, Wolfville, was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Pearson, for several days recently.

Mrs. Brenton Merry, who visited at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Pearson, for several weeks, left for Annapolis recently, to join her husband.

A few from this place enjoyed the Hockey game at the rink, Wolfville, last Friday evening.

Much sympathy is expressed for Mr. and Mrs. Fraser and family upon the death of their little grandson and nephew, Emery Gates, of Port Williams, also for the parents of the little boy. Many of our residents attended the funeral at the Port on Saturday afternoon.

A Baked Bean Supper was given at the Hall on Tuesday evening, proceeds for school library.

The "Greenwich Dramatic Club", are practising for a Drama to be given here in the near future, it is expected.

One advantage for the Austrians in having the Austrian crown down to 6,000 to the dollar is that they don't have to look out for counterfeits.

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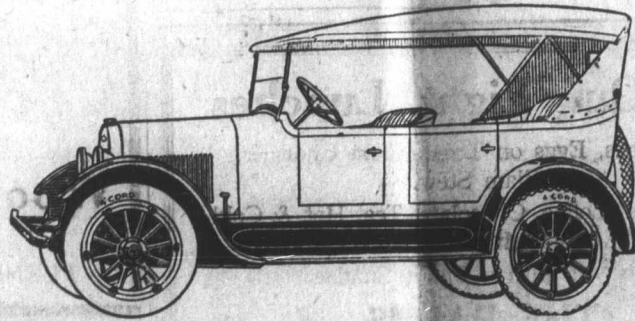
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