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Edmonton Endorses Democracy

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moral support. Women took a keen interest in the campaign and a number of them were active.

On election day the organization of each candidate was complete and ready. From early morning until late at night the battle waged; automobiles by the score raced throughout the day in the carrying of voters to the polls. Out of some 9,000 votes cast William J. McNamara got a majority of 236 and the "powers that were" received the greatest surprise in their lives.

Overconfidence at the outset on the part of the mayor, and his failure to consider in his reckoning the personality and the sincerity of his opponent in the principles laid down in his platform, cost the administration its control.

The platform upon which Mr. McNamara made his remarkable campaign was as follows:—

McNamara Platform

"The present system of municipal government has proven unsatisfactory, cumbersome and expensive, lacking in effectiveness, responsiveness to the public will, economy and efficiency. An Elective Commission form, such as has furnished the solution in many other cities, embodying the Initiative, the Referendum and the Recall, holds great promise, definitely locating responsibility and placing credit where it belongs. It is my belief that this system should be applied to Edmonton as quickly as the legislative details can be worked out. If elected I promise to submit this question to the ratepayers in the form of a plebiscite and in the event of its adoption by them to lose no time in bringing it into force.

"If elected, I will endeavor to enlist the active co-operation of the commissioners and heads of departments in an effort to bring about the greatest efficiency and harmony possible under the present system.

No More Secrecy

"Pending the adoption of Commission government with its complete publicity, there should be no more secret sessions of the council, council committees or the commission. The broadest publicity should be given to all public business.

"Pending the adoption of the Referendum, as provided in Commission government, the citizens should be given every opportunity to express themselves by plebiscite upon any and every large question of public interest and to meet this requirement there should be adopted by council some broad general policy under which, by petition to council by a certain number of ratepayers, a plebiscite could be invoked. Under this plan the street numbering system should be submitted without delay.

"Organized labor should be duly recognized. Where contracts are to be let, there should be specifically set out the wages to be paid upon a fair wage basis and penalties should be provided for failure upon the part of the contractor to abide by the wage clause in the contract.

Extravagance Must Cease

"Taxes in Edmonton are too high for the results accruing. The city should get a dollar's value for every dollar outlaid, in the central administration which is becoming grievously overloaded, in local improvements, the cost of which appears to be out of all proportion to the work done or provided for—as evidenced in the tax notices—and in the handling of the utilities, the capitalization of which has been in many cases badly mismanaged.

"Extensions of utilities should be made impartially upon a basis of population, sufficient to guarantee a revenue to meet capital cost of installation and the cost of maintenance and operation.

"Extensions to paving, sewer and such improvements should be made with a view to serving the greatest number of people and never with a view to the exploitation of property interests.

"An immediate effort should be made to place the street railway upon a practical and businesslike basis such as will guarantee a satisfactory service and make the utility self-sustaining.

"Edmonton should always own and operate all its utilities."

We extol ancient things, regardless of our times.—Tacitus.

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