

But this year the Chairman of the Finance Committee took care to notify his colleagues that the greater part of the surplus of the revenue would be used to place our streets in a proper state of repair, and that the Road Committee would receive the lion's share for the execution of general improvements to our roads with the guarantee that the money would be wisely expended.

This shows the breadth of view of the reformers, and not the narrow ideas of those who think of nothing but their own Wards without considering the interest of the City at large.

Fair Distribution of Available Funds

When a municipal commission has funds at its disposal for general improvements it is advisable that a detailed report be prepared, showing the most urgent needs of each Ward, so as to be in a position to treat each Ward according to the basis of its known needs. Aldermen should not interfere with the Chief of the Department in the preparation of the report; the official is the servant of the City, that is to say of the Council and not of a single Committee, or of a single alderman.

The Selection of Civic Employees

In certain departments of the City Hall, such as the Finance, Hygiene and Police Departments, the experience of the last two years in recruiting new employees from the candidates who were successful in the examinations, has resulted very satisfactorily. It is much to be desired that this system should become general. It is the best means to adopt to secure capable employees and to suppress the system of aldermanic patronage by which the offices would be crowded with useless officials, the promotion of employees is the encouragement given to merit by council on every possible occasion during the last two years. The principle of promotion should only be disregarded when there is no official in the Corporation capable of filling the vacant position.