

### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION.

It seems to be very generally admitted in these latter days that the advantages of municipal government so far as cities are concerned are more than counterbalanced by various disadvantages and the impossibility of securing the services of men of the high standing in the business world necessary for the important duties devolving upon them in the solution of the many difficult questions constantly coming before them. As a result the suggestion for government by commission is rapidly gaining favour.

Legislation to this end may appear very shortly in the statute books of some of the Provinces of the Dominion. We are told by *Case and Comment* that this idea is likely to receive wider hospitality in the Western States of the Union to the south of us than at any previous time. It is said that the Illinois legislature passed an enabling Act last spring, and as a result twenty-five cities in that State are preparing to vote on the question. At least a half-dozen cities in Michigan are on the same road, and about all the cities in Kansas not now under the commission plan are making ready to adopt it. Nor is the movement confined to the Mississippi valley. Practically every city in western New York, it is said, will be asking next winter for new rule charters, with the commission as the underlying idea.

This subject is referred to incidentally in a review in the *Nation* of Mr. Bryce's book, "The American Commonwealth." And the extract we quote reflects the thought of that great authority on this important question. The writer says:—"States like Oklahoma and Oregon, to name the two most advanced, have met the malady of machine-politics by a virtual deposition of representative government, securing to 'the people' by means of the Referendum, Initiative, and Recall, full powers of legislation and a veto on all important acts of the executive. While many States are moving along this road towards 'primitive democracy,' as it has continually survived in the New England 'town meeting,' city government is moving in a