

cities. Our own opinion is, that the whole of a city's business requiring technical knowledge and a large share of a man's time should be conducted by permanent paid officials, removable only for just cause. It is quite certain that a system which changes the heads of departments every year would be ruinous to many businesses; and it no doubt causes the city immense losses. The proposal to have the results of elections declared on the day of polling would no doubt avoid many corrupt practices, and should be adopted. The proposal to empower the council to pay damages and costs given in law courts against policemen we look upon as an extremely vicious one. Certainly, if policemen act "in the proper discharge of their duty," such costs would very seldom be given; but it is just because these costs are incurred when policemen exceed their duty, and commit offences against individuals, that they should be paid by the offenders, and not by the city milch cow.

#### **Municipal Mismanagement and the Citizens' Duty.**

It is a common idea that the Mayor, the City Treasurer, or the City Auditors—anybody, in fact, which in reality means *nobody*—will keep the city's business in good shape. Let the taxpayers, however, realize that officials of all grades are just as much liable to temptation as any ordinary citizen, and that mismanagement means a loss of money for the taxpayer quite as surely as "boodling" or open robbery, and they may see the advisability of regarding the reports of the meetings of the city council as items of news in which they have a decided financial interest. Every citizen who has a regard for his own interests (which are, or should be, coincident with those of the city and country in which he lives) should carry on a consistent course of examination of the measures proposed for the conduct of the public business, and of the attitude assumed towards them, and the votes given, by the men whom he has helped to elect. The only way in which public bodies can be protected from the perennial and ubiquitous boodler and lobbyist is for the citizens to follow the reports of the public business with as much care as they exercise when receiving payment of a bill or taking change over a counter. Instead of regarding efforts in the direction of economy as "meanness," as is too often the case, they should remember that extravagance is twin-brother to dishonesty. In the present condition of municipal matters in some of Canada's chief cities, extravagance in every form is a suicidal policy for the people. And they should remember that corrupt government cannot be got rid of while the people are themselves either corrupt or careless.

#### **Mayor Fleming's Inaugural Address.**

Although Alderman Boustead told the Mayor that if he wished to carry out all his proposals he would need to occupy the Mayor's chair for ever, we do not think there is any legitimate cause to object to his proposals as being either too radical or too numerous. We shall take an early opportunity of referring to them more in detail. In the mean-