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**CIVIC GOVERNMENT.** **M**R. William E. Curtis, a European correspondent of a Chicago newspaper, sends home a description of municipal government as it is in Germany, which is decidedly enlightening on methods adopted in the fatherland. As might be expected, there is something of almost military precision in the way in which the duties of various officials have been arranged. In Mr. Curtis' opinion, the German system is simpler, more centralised and more practical than the commission plan. It is much the same as the system of management of great railways and manufacturing corporations, and consists of a board of directors (city council), elected by the stockholders (tax payers), who appoint a general manager (mayor), general superintendent, division superintendents, chief engineer, treasurer, auditor and other executives to carry out the will of the stockholders as expressed through the Board of Directors. "The latter," writes Mr. Curtis, "is composed of business men representing the most important interests in the city. The general manager and his associates are professional administrators, who have spent their lives preparing themselves to perform their duty; have begun in low and unimportant positions and have been promoted from time to time because of their merit and efficiency. There is no politics in their choice; they are selected as the general manager of a railway is selected, because they are the most competent men available, and they perform their duties without regard to the effect upon the next election." For the purpose of electing the City Council, the taxpayers of a German city are divided into three classes. "The highest taxpayers whose assessments represent one-third of the revenues of the city, such as large real estate owners, railways and other corporations, vote separately and elect one-third of the members of the council. The merchants, the smaller manufacturers and other middle class taxpayers, who pay the second third of the public revenues, elect another one-third of the members of the council, while the remaining taxpayers and all persons who take out licenses and contribute in other ways to the public revenues elect the remaining one-third. This shuts out the floating population and prohibits every man who does not pay something toward the expense of administration from participating in municipal affairs." Municipal administration in Germany is a profession and, similarly, the men who have charge of all the departments of varied city activities are specialists in

their respective departments. "The result," writes Mr. Curtis, "is usually just what might be expected. There is practically no grafting; the officials are not influenced by political reasons; there are few selfish actions; and unworthy and inefficient men are prevented from entering the public service."



**MEXICO'S TROUBLES.** **T**HE voting by the Mexican Chamber of Deputies of \$4,000,000 gold "for the pacification of the country" is an indication that the Diaz Government intends to pursue a vigorous policy. An interesting light on the extent of this much talked-of strife is thrown by the fact that internal trade continued to increase to the end of January. According to a statement just issued by the Department of Finance the customs receipts for the month of January show the value of the importations as \$18,134,546, as against \$16,826,657 for the same month last year. The statement also shows that in the first seven months of the fiscal year the value of the imports was \$124,084,773, an increase of \$20,586,195 over the corresponding period of last year. The value of the exports for the seven months was \$161,411,590, an increase of \$21,130,507 over the same period of last year. With trade increasing so rapidly as this, it does not appear that the influence of the revolutionists' actions is very great upon the country's main activities.



**DR. JAMES BELL.** **T**HE death of Dr. James Bell at the comparatively early age of 59, removes one of the most distinguished of Canada's surgeons, and one who had had much to do with the advancement of his profession in the Dominion. Possibly he had devoted himself too well to his work for it appears that his sudden end under the strain of violent disease was probably due to the fact that for a long time past he had so given himself to his work that thereby he had weakened his own constitution. Many people, professional friends and laymen as well, know well that Dr. Bell never spared himself. Only a week before the end he was engaged as usual at the Royal Victoria Hospital. He made his own brilliant career, and among the distinguished names of Canadian medical men, his will long be held in high honour.