

sistent if he is not discouraged by the singular incapacity of that body to deal with great public questions upon public grounds. I forbear to state the case as strongly as I could. . . . When a State legislature meets, every great corporation within its reach prepares for self-defence, knowing by bitter experience how hospitably attacks upon its property are received in committees and on the floor. The private citizen on his part never knows what cherished right may not be endangered by existing monopolies or by schemers in search of valuable franchises. . . . This popular fear of the legislature shows itself in all the more recent American Constitutions. Biennial sessions are the rule, and in many cases the length of the session is limited. Where it is not, protracted sessions are disapproved. The people cannot endure so long or so frequent assemblies of their representatives as they once desired. . . . Whether, then, we look at the constitutions which the people adopt and the rules of the House of Representatives, or listen to the common speech of men, we find that the faith in the representatives of the people on which our government was founded is gradually weakening. Of our historical representatives we are justly proud. On our possible representatives we still rely, but our actual representatives we fear and distrust."

We may not be, and are not, we trust, as yet, quite in this position, so far as our legislatures are concerned; but Mr. Storey's added remarks as to municipal government in cities and towns come home to us very strongly. He says:

"When we come to municipal legislatures, the same feeling is found. The city councils of our great cities have not retained public respect, and everywhere men seek an escape from their misrule in laws which shall deprive them of power, and concentrate authority in a single magistrate. The tendency here is from representative government to absolute power."

The citizens of Toronto, at least, might suppose that the above remarks were written for their special benefit. Some action in that direction would not, we apprehend, be thought out of place by a majority of the ratepayers of that city at the present time.