

The due administration of the work, which is carried out under upwards of fifty Acts of Parliament involves the employment of a regular staff of some nine hundred persons and an annual outlay of about £350,000.

The Port of London Sanitary Committee

The work of the Port of London Sanitary Committee properly comes under the head of Public Health, but it is placed in its present position, for the reason that the whole of the expenses attendant in carrying on the duties assigned to it are discharged by the Corporation out of its own Funds, and not out of the Rates, as are all the expenses in carrying on the work of the Health Department.

This Committee was originally appointed in 1872, and has since been annually re-appointed, under the various Public Health Acts. To it is delegated the duty of carrying into execution the powers of the Corporation, as the Port Sanitary Authority for the Port of London. The Committee has the management of the Port Sanitary Hospital, at Denton, near Gravesend, and the dealing (through their medical officers) with all cases of infectious disease brought into the Port of London by any vessels.

The City Police Committee

This Committee is the largest Committee of the Corporation, and consists of the Lord Mayor, all the Aldermen, the Aldermen's Deputies, and 29 Commoners—85 members in all.

The Committee carries the various Acts relating to the City Police into execution (except as to the disciplinary portion, which is under the control of the Commissioner), it has the general management and control of all the buildings in the occupation of the Force, Police Stations, Hospitals, &c., and provides all the necessary accoutrements. It appoints the Surgeon. The City Police Force is under the command of a Commissioner, and the authorized strength is 1,280 officers and men. The expenses of maintaining the force (about £200,000 per annum) are met by a contribution from the City's Cash of one-fourth part, and the remainder by a rate levied on the City.

The Force under the Commissioner is as follows:—

One Assistant Commissioner, 1 Chief Superintendent (Chief Clerk), 1 Superintendent (Executive Department), 1 Superintendent (Detective Department), 5 Chief Inspectors, 23 Inspectors, 23 Sub-Inspectors, 96 Sergeants, and 1,029 Constables. In addition, 150 Constables are authorized for private service, to be employed at the expense of the persons engaging their services.

The Benevolence of the Corporation

Reference is made to the part the Corporation has taken in relieving distress in every shape and form, and the assistance given in promoting and assisting philanthropic and patriotic enterprises of every kind. There is a total of amounts given for these purposes from the year 1781 to the end of 1910, which shows the Corporation's benevolence to be £1,305,856. This does not include the special funds that have been raised on behalf of the sufferers of every form of disaster by the Lord Mayor in all parts of the world.



Armorial Bearings of the City of London

The Short Ballot

(Written specially for the Journal by the U. S. Expert.)

Canadians of either English or French origin will have considerable difficulty in understanding why such an issue as the "Short Ballot" should ever have arisen. Why should ballots ever be anything but short?

The lengthening of the ballot is one of the visible signs of the tortuous course of politics on the other side of the line. The "States" conceived a mighty zeal for democracy in the third decade of the nineteenth century. It was the fruit, originally, of some unpleasant experiences which they had with a too aggressive British monarch. It was largely, too, a reaction against the seemingly aristocratic temper of the Federalist party, whose leaders were most influential in fashioning the fundamental law of the union.

The "new" men, those whose imaginations were fired by the opportunities in the great expanses of the West, went thence to "grow up with the country", and they took with them no preconceived notions of political practice or theory. Their notions of politics were rooted and grounded in, and limited by, an unbounded faith in "the people" to govern themselves. Their democracy was emotional; it was sincere; but it was of the unscientific character which was to be expected in an undeveloped country, which had no history or experience of its own to draw upon.

These early radicals were immersed in the idea that democracy was synonymous with office holding. They did not see that the key to popular control lies in making the thing so clear and simple that plain people, without special and intricate knowledge of politics, cannot consistently fail to play the citizen's part. So they began, under the inspiration of Andrew Jackson, and men of his type, to "bring the government closer to the people" by turning out of office capable men to make room for men who were "in sympathy with the administration." A clerk in a government office was short in his qualifications unless he could talk and work for the particular type of democracy which was then rampant.

Of course, it would have been very "democratic" if the theory could have been carried out and all of the thousands of government employees could have been made elective. Fortunately the people had enough sense of humor not to permit the perpetration of any such anarchical scheme. But they went just as far in this direction as the extra legal party organizations, which assumed the responsibilities of government, could persuade them to go. They have never elected government clerks, but are constantly doing what seems to Canadians an equally anomalous thing in electing coroners, secretaries of state, state printers, state dairy inspectors, city treasurers, county surveyors, etc.,—officers whose functions are purely professional, or clerical in a dignified sense.

All this was not sprung on the electors at once. It was a case of making a false step, and then getting deeper and deeper into the mire. The politicians who fattened on the spoils system were quick to see the ever widening opportunity which accrued to their class from the inability of the voter to wield his ballot. A "Boss" played upon the "democratic" idea and actually convinced the people that the cure for corrupt politics was more "democracy", meaning more officials chosen by popular election.

The lengthening of the ballot which resulted from this specious plea has gone on steadily till the number of offices to be filled at one time sometimes reaches as