THE WEEKLY UNTARIO

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B PRINTING: The Ontario Job Printing De is speciall well equipped to turn out art stylish Job Work. Modern presses, new ty petent workmen. I. MORTON. Business Manager. J. O. HERITY J. O. HERITY,

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1920

NOT A ONE-MAN GOVERNMENT

Upon all sides The Ontario hears warm commendation expressed in reference to the proposal to adopt the City Manager plan of government in Belleville. The adverse criticisms heard are extremely few and these are based upon an entire misconception of what the City Manager plan really is.

The objection most frequently heard is that the Manager scheme is a one-man system of government, a sort of dictatorship, opposed entirely to Anglon-Saxon ideals of democracy.

/ Nothing could be farther from the truth. The City-Manager plan, if adopted in Belleville, would be a 2,500-man government, or a government by as many men as there are electors in the city. Those 2,500 men annually elect a board of directors that we may call aldermen or commissioners, as we choose. That board of directors hires a man specially skilled in managing municipal affairs the same as a bank or railroad or industrial corporation hires a man skilled in banking, or railroading or factory operation to carry out their general policies and do the technical work that neither directors nor stockholders have the time, the skill or the inclination to try to do for themselves. In exactly the same way a board of trustees engages a school principal. There is not a minute of the year that the principal is not directly responsible to the trustees and through them responsible to ratepayers and electors.

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If we went out every year and elected, by popular vote, a group of butchers and bakers and candlestick-makers to manage and teach our schools, we would be doing identically the same foolish thing as we are doing now in electing a group of amateurs to manage and superintend the working out of our policies of government. in our city municipalities.

Little wonder is it that we run into such Lotchery as we have seen exhibited on Murney's hill the past two seasons where a dozen cooks have been adding expense and contributing to waste by their conflicting plans and hodge-podge methods.

0 0 0 0 We repeat what we have said befor members of this year's city council are all capable men in their own private business or profession. They are honest men and have endeavored to be faithful to the trust reposed in them by the electors but they have been trying to work under a system that is incapable of producing anything better than waste, extravagance, inefficiency, slovenliness, confusion and towering debts.

Government is simply an organisation of the people for the purpose of doing those things which the people cannot do for themselves, of doing those things which the people cannot be permitted to do for themselves or those things which can be better done collectively than individually.

Individually we could not have protected ourselves against German aggression. We have to have organised government to protect ourselves against foreign enemies.

A man may buy a shot-gun and sit down on his front door-step and protect his family and property from harm at the hands of other people. But in the interest of society as a whole, it is not well that men should do that sort of thing. It leads to needless feuds and killings. For such purposes we have found by experience that it is better to have an organised police force and delegate to them the duty of keeping order and enforcing the claims of justice. 0 0 0 0

A citizen may presumably provide a water supply and light for his own house

Belleville merchants might cart all their goods by horse trains from Montreal to Toronto and be independent. But it'is more conventent and economical to have public transportation lines than for each man to be his own carrier.

It is just such simple things as the supplying of water, gas, light, sewerage, parks, police protection, roads and sidewalks that a city government is organized to do. When it fails to do them or does them inefficiently or expensively the whole community suffers.

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Get these two primary considerations clearly into your mind,-In the first place government in a democracy must be so organised as to express the will of the people with a reasonable degree of accuracy and promtness. In the second place government in a democracy should be so organised that it will efficiently execute the will of the electorate once that will has been expressed.

Government, whether of city, province or dominion, is concerned only with two thingslegislation and administration.

0 0 0 3 "For forms of government let fools contest; Whate'er is best administered is best."

This opinion from Pope's "Essay on Man," has been fruitful of a lot of bad political doctrine. The "Essay on Man" is poor poetry but its political science is much worse

Had Alexander Pope read the history of his native land with the least discrimination he would have discovered that the entire struggle for political liberty in England centered around forms of government.

There was the struggle to get parliament recognised as an established institution of government. There was the struggle to get power away from the king and into the hands of parliament. Next there was the struggle to bring the executive under the control of parliament and particularly of the house of commons. Just prior to the Great War, we witnessed the successful effort of the house of commons to become the dominant factor in British government by reducing the house of lords to a body having a mere suspensive vote on legislation. 0000

ential functions of government. The first of these is the expression of the will of the people. The second is its execution.

These two functions are essentially separate and distinct The first function has to do with policies regarding which there may be proper and sincere differences of opinion.

On the other hand administration has to do with the execution of policies once they are agreed upon.

In administration the only legitimate consideration is the best and most effective method of getting the work done.

For instance there may have been legitimate differences of opinion among the electors and the members of the city council as to the wisdom of buying the waterworks plant but when once the plant was purchased there was no difference of opinion as to getting the work done in the most efficient manner possible.

0 0 0 0 Why is it that we cannot choose good executives by popular election?

When we choose men for the city council we must now have in view this dual fanction of the legislative and executive.

But it is practically impossible to get the kind of talent required for successful city administration to stand for election to our own city council or to devote the necessary time to the work even if elected.

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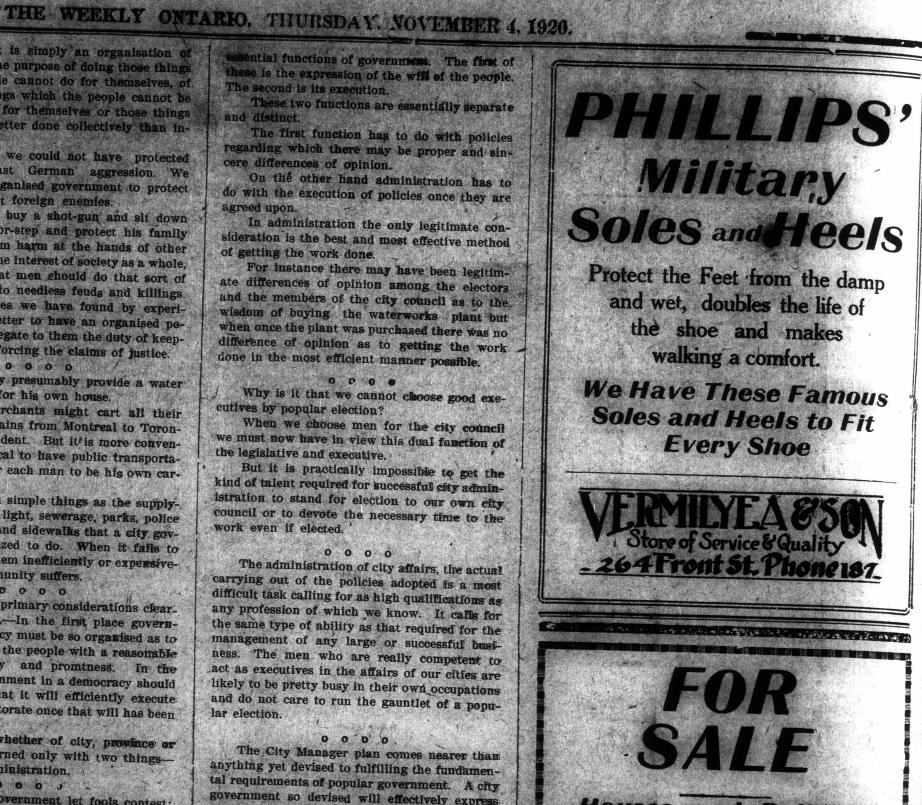
The administration of city affairs, the actual carrying out of the policies adopted is a most difficult task calling for as high qualifications as any profession of which we know. It calls for the same type of ability as that required for the management of any large or successful business. The men who are really competent to act as executives in the affairs of our cities are likely to be pretty busy in their own occupations and do not care to run the gauntlet of a popular election.

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The City Manager plan comes nearer than anything yet devised to fulfilling the fundamental requirements of popular government. A city government so devised will effectively express the popular will and express the will efficiently when expressed. It provides a type of government that makes it possible for us to secure the maximum of democracy together with the maximum of efficiency.

The primary purpose of City Management is not a lower tax-rate. Though lower taxes will follow greater efficiency in administra just as certainly as effect follows cause. The main advantage of efficient city government is that it will bring to the great masses of the people service and advantages of which they would otherwise be deprived and thereby make life for them safer, pleasanter, more convenient and more profitable

Wages and tobacco may soon be prisoners at Kingston. When that becomes rule one may expect to hear many eloquent ; peals in court to be sent to the "pen" rath than to one of those common jails, where other amusement than playing "How Dry I an on a stone with a sledge-hammer is available



Houses and Building Lots Best Locations in all Parts of the City Satisfactory Terms

Arranged

Whelan and Vermans

At the Annu ed Boards City Hall, Of the 28 Presented Chamber of One of the most i erings that has ever t Belleville will be the s and 26 ant organisation, which the best thought province.

STABLISH

BEREVIL

convention of the Asso of Trade and Chambers of the Province of the beld in the City Hall day and Thursday. This is the first time een honored by being eeting place of this h

mercial and industri It is largely out of o such active members of ion as Lt.-Col. Ponto lent, Mr. John Elliott, esident, Mr. R. J. Gra farsh and others that

wention is being hel There are, in all, ns to be pres nvention, and of the eville Chamber of Following are the re-

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Resolved that, in the Ontario Associated the and Chambers

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Fire Prevention and Safe

Resolved that the On

We are now beginning to see by the light of expensive experience that mere honesty is 'not sufficient in our city government, that business or professional men, no matter how successful in their private affairs, are only amateurs when it comes to carrying out the highly technical work of city administration.

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/ When ten men are thrown into the municipal pond every year and told to swim whether they have, or have not, had any previous knowledge of how to keep afloat is it any wonder that there are collisions, flounderings, much stirring up of mud, wasted energy, and costly accidents. The amazing thing is that such. features are not more pronounced.

It is safe to say that if Belleville business men managed their private affairs with the same indirection, lack of purpose, divided management, opposing 'counsels and diregard' of business principles that it would be only a ques-tion of time until all would be asked to come forward and make a settlement with their creditors.

0000 This municipal system of government we have at present is not a sacred thing, divinely

ordained.

It is merely an evolution from something more crude that went before. The evolutionary process is not yet complete.

Government is not something apart from the rest of our lives. It is merely a method of doing in another way what we would other-wise have to do individually.

We have heard Pope's fallacy expressed in our own day in words like these,-"The form of government is of no importance. Any form of government will work well if you get the right men to run it."

Only last week The Ontario published a somewhat ironical letter from which one would gather the impression that Belleville city council would be all right and would not make mistakes if we had chosen different men for mayor and aldermen.

/ If a man walked into the local plant of the Steel Company of Canada and informed Mr. Higgs that it made no difference how he organised his business as long as he got good men in-to it, that it would come out all right if he paid no attention to the placing of machinery to conserve labor, if he had a dozen workmen getting in one another's way and not co-operating or co-ordinating their efforts, if the buying and delivering of raw material was carried on by a score of different agencies, none of them working with any regard to the others or to general instructions, if the marketing of the finished product was equally unmethodical, Mr. Higgs would probably question the man's sanity and if Mr. Higgs were a frank and brutal person he might even put his thought into words.

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It is a well known fact in commercial life that with the right kind of organisation you not only can get better men to come into your business but you can get better service out of the men after they are in it.

The principles of successful business are pre-cisely the same as those that bring success in government.

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We have already stated that there are two

OUR COUNTRY FAIR

Sylvester Smythe, a city kid, Boards at our farm this year, And I am sure 'twould make you grin If you could only hear Him brag about the city sights, The Hippodrome and Zoo; But when he piles it on too thick. I do some bragging too.

I ask him if his hippodrome Or zoo has ever shown A pair of well-matched Devon steers That draw two tons of stone: And when he says it can't be done, I cross my heart and swear Sie Jones' steers do just that stunt Out at our Country Fair.

I ask him if the museums He praises up sky-high Show pumpkins big as wagon wheels And every kind of pie; Or patchwork quilts all made by hand, Of tiny blocks cut square; We've shown these things for twenty years Out at our County Fair.

I s'pose he has seen lots of things, But so have I, b'gosh! And country pumpkins just as good As any city squash. He never praises anything Out here—except the air; But you just watch he'll change his tune Out at our County Fair. -Floyd Schoonmaker Armstrong

GET UNDER YOUR OWN ROOF BELLEVILLE, ONT.	
Meditation About Bancroft Fair Here's how a Coe Hitl correspond- ent writing to the North Hastings Review, Madoc, sizes up the Ban- croft Fair:	in Trouble
At Toronto's Ex. a quarter we pay Which gives us the sights for all the day. The day was sunny and very bright But, oh wife, those races were a sight. The midway sports which were ad- vertised. Were few in numbers and small in size. The wheels of fortune were quite a joke.	Four young men from Port Hop motored over to Cobourg Wednesda evening and gasolene was not the only fluid which the car carried. And es it invariably happens gasoline and the other liquids refused to mix. Of the main street in Cobourg some thing went wrong with the car and one of the quartette became so bolst erous that he was placed under ar rest. The jail quarters did not ap peal to him and he started in to raise rough honse. He tore the lavatory out, turned over the stove and dis- connected the steam pipe. Fortun- ately the attention of the night- watchman was attracted by the noise and when he reached the jail the whole place was flooded and the pris- oner was standing in water up to his knees. He was removed to the Counties jail and next morning was remanded until Monday for trial.
Not to mention the men they broke. The people seemed happy and very cheary. But the day to me seemed long and dreary. So next year wife, I'll surely go To a somewhat different Country show. Where the races are better and more up to date. and they do not charge at such a rate. The Madoc Band played many an atr atr Ho have the day for the Bancroft hill	Found the Skeleton of a Nine-Foot Man PITTSBURG, Nov. 1.—Excavation t a mound near Greenburg, by Dr. Y. J. Holtand, curstor of a Carnegie huseum in this city, has disclosed be skeleton of a man who in life as almost nine feet in height. The formulad torso, according to Dr. olland, was buried more than four undred years ago and was, he be- eved, that of a member of a pre- storic race inhabiting North Amer- a before the Indian.

HISTORICAL G

General Viscounte ch Embassy, acc giment, 42nd In ed a replica of the im, to be en v deposited by the Photo shows Gener to the First Com overny but.)