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Letters are invited on all subjects relative to municipal matters, and those of a critical nature will be welcomed and given a place so long as they are proper and free from personalities.

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Better Elections

The recent municipal elections show some very encouraging features.

One is the increasing desire to keep party politics out of municipal affairs.

Citizens should not vote for a mayoralty candidate because he is a Liberal or Conservative.

The candidate that gets the votes should be a good citizen.

Not, necessarily, a good party man.

Unless in an exceptional condition of affairs, he should have served in the Council.

He should be a business man.

He should have an absolutely untarnished record.

But whether he is a Conservative or a Liberal, should be entirely forgotten for the time.

Why should a Liberal or a Conservative, as such, make a good Mayor or Councillor?

Party politics are bad enough in Provincial elections, where they mean nothing.

But in civics, they are an absurdity and a curse.

This feeling, fortunately, is gaining ground.

The more rapidly it dominates every municipality, the better for Canada.

Hamilton was strongly party in its municipal elections.

But a candidate who said "Civic Government is Business, not Politics", was elected.

Ald. McLaren is Mayor, and party rule has been defeated.

Other municipalities show the same trend.

All should follow this.

"Let it be soon."

Another pleasant feature is the refusal to make changes.

The tendency is too much to make chances.

The cry for "new blood" is loud and persistent.

Yet the man who has been Mayor or Alderman for a year has experience.

The new man has to buy it.

Generally it is the electors who pay for the lessons.

Sometimes lessons in experience are costly.

Therefore, if you have a good man, keep him.

He cannot pass on his experience to the new man.

What private firm changes its men as soon as they have learned the business?

Toronto was asked to change its Mayor.

But Mayor Oliver was re-elected by a large majority.

The electors of Toronto knew enough to hold on to a good Mayor.

London knew Mayor Stevely had experience.

So they kept him.

Other-wise—cities did the same thing.

Of course this does not mean that a mayor should always be returned to office!

Sometimes the voters have paid for their experience!

Then is the time to make a change.

V. A. GRANT.