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Civic Government Criticized Then Nicely Whitewashed

Conference Committee of 100 Claims That Toronto Does Not Get the Best Men Because of Small Salaries, and Rulers Are Not as Efficient and Competent as Those of Big Financial Insti-tutions, But Declines to Favor Commission Government and Says Toronto's System is Almost Ideal.

We don't want commission form of vernment in Toronto. The present tem is a very efficient one and plenty denough. What we should do is to mulate some plan that will be help-to the civic authorities."

The above remarks by a member of the conference committee of One Hundred of the board of trade and City of toronto, at a luncheon in McConkey's resterday, fairly well sized up the attigue of the gathering in regard to contain a conference of Toronto's present method of dministration was ever applied, every peaker believing that Toronto stacked in like a mountain alongside of any ther city in creation in everything,

Not Time Enough,

Prof. Mavor believed that commission government had not been in vogue for a sufficient length of time to judge its efficiency. Usually the new form of administration had been adopted after some disaster, such as an exposure of corruptive methods, and in this sense Toronto, which had been immune from corruption, did not need a change.

Washington was the sample city on the continent. A commission was appointed by congress and the people had nothing to do with it. This commission government was by no means identical with the governments in vogue in Galveston and other cities in western United States and Canada. He considered the ordinary government of mayor and council in Canada's capital, Ottawa, was just as efficient as Washington's new idea.

"This form of administration has not been in existence for very long, in fact, it is too early as yet to judge its success," said the speaker. He compared Torcnto to a large financial house with big capital, which required to be managed by competent men. Toronto was even greater in wealth than the larger corporations, such as the street railway company and other concerns, but still corporations, such as the street railway company and other concerns, but still the rulers were not as efficient and

tent as in the case of the final Not the Best Men.

"Toronto does not get the best men because it does not pay sufficient salamen at the city's disposal for small monetary results." There was much talk of changing the system of govern-ment when the changing of men would be better. The heads of the depart-ments should be strengthened.

Two Good Methods, He said there were two good methods which, if adopted, would ensure a government that would meet the wishes of all the people. They were: First, professional government, comprising men recruited from the municipal service, and, second, a government with the heads of all departments paid substantial salaries, more than they are receiving now, and given a freer hand in civic transactions. What Toronto needed was more businesslike methods in handling the affairs of the people.

We Are Forgetful. said there were two good methods

We Are Forgetful.

"People forget that Toronto has expanded with unprecedented rapidity," thought ex-Mayor Joseph Oliver, in re-

thought ex-Mayor Joseph Oliver, in reference to the corresponding slowness of the council to cope with the situation. Toronto never dreamed of such development, and the council was not prepared for it. A few years ago about 220,000 was figured as the probable population in 1918. The population increased too rapidly for the council.

As far as Mr. Oliver was concerned, commission government could not even equal the city's present administration, board of control, committees, police commissioners et al. The best idea was to pay more money to the heads of department and thereby strengthen every link in the chain of the civic government. He considered that a board of control was just as efficient and smooth-working a machine as the other kind of government. The board of control control was just as the considered that a second of control was just as efficient and smooth-working a machine as the other kind of government. The board of con-

board of control, committees, police commissioners et al. The best idea was to pay more money to the heads of department and thereby strengthen every link in the chain of the civic government. He considered that a board of control was just as efficient and smooth-working a machine as the other kind of government. The board of control looked after financial matters, tenders and so forth, just on similar lines with the commission.

No Gratting.

He had traveled much in big cities on both sides of the border, but had never come in contact with a better government than Toronto's. This city stood in the unique position of having honest principles and no grafting. There could be just as many mistakes made by a commission, as a board of control, he prophesied. Altogether, Mr. Oliver was strong for the present system of government with a few changes within it.

Mr. Creighton, president of the Mocos Jaw Board of Trade, told of how commission government was worked in the prairie city. It was practically an experiment out there, but so far had proved a great success, and much more efficient than the former system.

The main trouble before we got the Lew government, was the fact that we

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