

A Municipal Stores Department

The City of Calgary, Alta., recently visited by the Municipal party who attended the Convention at Saskatoon, has many features of interest to the student of civics, and some will be discussed subsequently.

Meanwhile, a new feature of great interest is the Department of the Purchasing Agent and Storekeeper.

The City Council came to the wise conclusion that a stores Department, with some one person responsible for its proper conduct would be advisable for the City, for they saw that no matter what the size of a business concern is, the principle of stock-keeping is the same; and if the system is simple well arranged to meet the requirements of the business, the Department can be conducted economically, and the operation will result in economy of both money and time.

The City determined on getting a man capable of filling the position, and selected Mr. J. B. Chandler, who had been with the C. P. Ry.

At first Mr. Chandler's time was occupied in stock taking, and getting materials and tools from all over the City into the store house and yard, which are situated on a spur track of the C. P. Ry. In this work, it was discovered that of some materials no less than five years supply was on hand.

In 1910, under the late Mayor Jamieson, the Purchasing and Stores were united under one head.

The growth of the Department is shown by the increase in the stores issued.

Stores issued, June 1908, \$35,536.

Stores issued, June 1913, \$356,189

while the percentage of cost of handling by the Department decreased from 1.27 per cent. to .86.

The material handled consists of every thing required by and used for the city, including all public works, municipal and street railway, municipal electric light and power, and water works departments.

Some idea of the Stores operations may be obtained from the following figures for the year 1912.

	millions (approx)
Assets (whole City Dec, 31, 1912..	\$22,500,000
No. of orders filled.....	79,000
Invoices passed for payment.....	17,000
Invoices rendered (dept.).....	23,500
No. of cars of material unloaded..	2,117
Weight of same in tons.....	67,774
Freight charges on same.....	\$528,096.36
Total issue.....	\$1,870,909.00

In addition to the foregoing this Department handles the Municipal shops, wherein all repairs for Machine, Blacksmith, Wood working and Horse-shoeing are done. The results have been very favorable, particularly in the latter; the City owns 211 horses and the average cost of shoeing for the month of May was \$1.53 per head against \$2.40 under the former contract rate.

The cost accounting for all the electric trucks and Gas autos (6 of the former and 25 of the latter) is handled through this department, the City owning its Garage and charging station.

The following figures will be of interest, viz:—

Size of warehouse 66'x 166' 3 floors,
 Size of shop 48'x 96' 1 floor
 Size of cement shed, capacity 17,000 Blds.
 Size of yards 15 acres.
 Size of trackage capacity 39 cars.
 Size of oat bin, capacity 12,000 Bus.
 Stock carried (about) \$300,000.00.

The system adopted is the "card system and perpetual inventory," and easily shows exactly how the stock of everything stands. The visit to the Department proved very interesting, and Mr. Chandler explained every thing to the satisfaction of every one.

It is easy to see how Calgary pays the cost of the Department, and at the same time saves both in purchasing properly, and in taking care of what is bought.

NEW BOOK

American Syndicalism

The I. W. W.

JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS

(The Macmillan Co., 264 pp. \$1.50 net.)

This book naturally follows the author's previous one, "The Social Unrest," and deals more closely with the causes of that unrest, and its latest results in the I. W. W. or "Industrial Workers of the World," which he describes as "strictly a revolutionary uprising against that part of the present order which is known as capitalism." Mr. Brooks has the great advantage of being practically acquainted with his subject, for his is not the result of speculation in a study chair, but the knowledge gained by personal contact with the workers themselves. And, as the result of such first-hand knowledge, it is a sufficiently serious presentation of social conditions as to merit deep study. For, as he says, of this new movement, if in whole or in part, it is to be opposed "it should be understood."

Mr. Brooks points out that the articles in the leading magazines are awakening the public to abuses that arouse a desire for change; and that "socialism has no such personal friend as the capitalist possessing power and inclination to crush labor organization."

The results of unwisely handled capital in arousing public enmity is fully dealt with—"People have learned that if trades unions have bothered capital, so has capital the public." "Capital could gain no victory over labor associations that left its pang of felt injustice, without throwing the door wider still to socialism."

The I. W. W., argues Mr. Brooks, is the outcome of the suppression of trades unionism, and says "The I. W. W. taps labor strata not only lower than those of trades union, but still lower than that from which socialism generally gets recruits. It appeals to youth .. to those who rebel at the discipline of the trade union. It easily becomes a brother to the tramp and the outcast." "It is strictly a revolutionary uprising against that part of the present order known as capitalism." "Like every revolution, it attracts the most unselfish and courageous, together with the self-seeking and the semi-criminal."

The hopeful sign in the midst of such a black outlook is "that the public has come to feel that these (larger businesses) are social as well as private affairs."

American Society of Municipal Improvement

The 20th Annual Convention will be held in Wilmington, Del., October 7th to 10th, the Committees meeting on Monday, Oct. 6th. Full particulars can be had from the secretary, Mr. A. Prescott Folwell, 50 Union Square, New York.