

THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE THE BEST HATED MAN.

Our contemporary the Municipal Magazine of South Africa in a report of the annual conference of the South African Association of Municipal Employees quotes the following description of the municipal employee as given by Councillor Maclean of Port Elizabeth, where the conference was held:

"The best hated man in town at the present moment was the municipal employee.

"If he works hard he is trying to curry favour; if he doesn't he is lazy.

"If he is young he is incompetent; if he is old he is a fossil.

"If he carries out the law he is cheeky; if he doesn't he is weak-kneed.

"If he goes to church he is sanctimonious and holy; if he doesn't he isn't respectable.

"If he goes out for tea he wastes the ratepayers' time; if he has it in the office he wastes their money.

"If he ceases work at the appointed time he is a time server; if he doesn't he is seeking overtime.

"If he asks for a rise in wages he is a bolshevik; if he doesn't HE DON'T GET IT.

"It seems to me that to be a successful municipal official, one must be a middle-aged archangel."

It is encouraging to the Canadian municipal employee to know that his colleagues in South Africa are in the same boat as he is when it comes to getting public sympathy. In both countries the municipal official is the butt of disgruntled ratepayers, but fortunately for the community he takes all the growls very philosophically.

MUNICIPAL FORESTS

A rather unusual form of municipal ownership is that of municipal forests. Over 200 cities in the United States own and operate—if it can be called operating—municipal forests.

Chicago owns a forest of 18,000 acres.

Colorado Springs owns a forest of 17,000 acres; Denver, 7,000 acres; Fall River, Mass., 3,000; Holyoke, 2,000; St. Paul, 1,400; Newark, N.J., a watershed forest of 20,480 acres; Salt Lake City, a 25,000-acre forest, and many other cities smaller tracts.

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