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INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL

If Edmonton enjoyed the Initiative, Referendum and Recall many problems which divided the city administration at times would be quickly settled. For instance the chief of police question would have been settled long ago. Extension of gas franchise is another which would have been decided. The firemen's strike would not have taken place.

The Initiative, Referendum and Recall are merely little provisions in a city charter which places a string in the hands of the people of a community whereby they are master of the public situation at all times.

By the Initiative the public is empowered to bring into being any proposed measure desired by the people. A petition signed by a certain percentage of electors automatically forces the city council to either pass the measure or submit it to a referendum.

By the Referendum any legislative body undecided as to what course to pursue, merely submits the question of referendum.

And the Recall is the greatest little charter paragraph to keep elected representatives in the mood to execute the public will that has ever been invented. When a representative shows a tendency to represent himself or friends instead of the people generally of the community, a Recall petition signed by a certain percentage of the electors and filed with the city clerk automatically removes that representative from office. There is an election. If the gentleman removed cares to contest his seat and is re-elected he is vindicated in the position he assumed. If not a man contesting the seat is elected and the public is thereby rid of the undesirable public servant.

The Initiative, Referendum and Recall are provided in hundreds of city charters on this continent. And experience proves that these measures seldom have to be resorted to because elected representatives are disposed to give heed to the public will.

A FAIR DAY FOR FAIR PAY

When the secretary of the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council told the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations sitting in Edmonton that there is some tendency today for men to work for the dollar with too little regard for the product, he exhibited courage, gave evidence of fairness, and demonstrated breadth of mind required for leadership. At the same time he was giving expression to a well established principle of Trades Unionism—a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. While there may be and there is, perhaps, a tendency as cited, it is due to the individual, and is not a charge against the creed of Organized Labor.

Trades' Unionism, as much as any section of society, keenly realizes that a specific amount of production is required to enable a return of a fixed pay. In view of this certain crafts have of themselves specified a minimum amount of production that might reasonably be offered as a day's work. Any member failing to deliver that minimum can expect no support from his union in difficulties with the employer arising from that deficiency.

Any tendency that is not for mutual benefit of employer and employe, and a benefit to the community, is due to other influences or to weakness of individuals, and Organized Labor is a big factor to be utilized in correcting such defects.

OUT OF POT INTO FIRE

In order that police administration of the city might be placed beyond meddlesome political hands that might unduly tamper with the department, the City of Edmonton, through its city council had the Provincial Legislature set up a Police Commission. Into the hands of this Police Commission was placed the entire control and direction of the police department. The end sought was attained.

But alas and alack! There arrives a day when the majority of the community is as dissatisfied with the police administration as at any time during the history of the city. And the public awakes to the sad realization that it is wholly powerless. The city has tied its own hands. Such in general is the sequel when the public permits its affairs to get beyond its reach.

A CAUSE OF UNREST

A basic cause of so-called social unrest is the mere fact that men and women are educated and cultured to the degree that their tastes and desires are beyond their financial reach. Accordingly the economic structure must be so readjusted that the standard of living is raised to meet the demand. If the laboring section of the nation was as unlearned and uncultivated as the Chinese or Hindus, these people would be satisfied to subsist on a pittance, live in hovels and toil from sun to sun. No protest would be made when their labor was exploited, the public treasury was looted, and a big percentage of the population lived in luxury off their production.

As the masses of the people in this country will never again fall into the class of beasts of burden, and more education, more culture and greater requirements will follow, it must follow that the only possible solution to economic problems must be a realization of meeting the demands of the rank and file. Until such time there will be, and can be no peaceful, contented and happy population.

THE WARD SYSTEM

And now comes an agitation for the ward system in Edmonton. History is repeating itself. How any municipal ills would be cured by the ward system of electing aldermen certainly is not apparent. Geographical representation is not and never was representative. The desired end is representation of people, not wards. Proportional Representation provides representation for different divisions of people in a community. If there is a real desire to inaugurate in Edmonton a progressive ballot and a system of representation wherein all social divisions of the community may have a guaranteed voice in public affairs, submit a Proportional Representation proposal to the electors and it will carry. An all around ward system would merely aggravate whatever difficulties arise because of the hybrid system the city is operating under now.

CENTER OF ATTENTION

A national commission has just finished a sitting in Edmonton in a search for a solution to the economic problems confronting the nation. Every step so far gives evidence of an earnest desire to discover a real solution. The personnel of the commission is representative. Evidence is sought from industry and from labor. Whether time is allowed the commission to go sufficiently far afield in its investigation is a matter of opinion. Expediency is a factor therein. Certainly the commission is wasting no time. The report of this body will be awaited and read with maximum interest and concern. The eyes of the nation are on this commission.

PAY FOR ALDERMEN

If pay for aldermen is to mean that aldermen are to dip into the details of the management of public utilities and departmental business in the future as much or more than in the past, then they had better be paid. It does not follow necessarily that remuneration for aldermen would mean aldermanic management of departmental affairs.

"PRE-WAR" PRICES THING OF THE PAST

Something Wrong Somewhere When Such Claims Are Made

The president of a large manufacturing concern writes as follows in the *Musicians' International Journal*:
When business men read an announcement issued by a commercial institution to the effect that "pre-war prices and terms" are about to be put into operation, what conclusions do they deduce from such a statement? From a strictly business and logical viewpoint, it would appear that there is no truth in such an announcement. There are three fundamental reasons for that conclusion:
1. Either that manufacturer's prices during the war bordered close upon extortion, or
2. No cost accounting system was used and the costs were based upon guess-work, or
3. The manufacturer completely abated his standards of construction by cheapening production to such an extent that a reduction in prices was made necessary.

If any manufacturer discovers at this time that he can reduce his prices, it would seem that his war-time raise in prices was extortionate. It is true that many factories today are operating without an accurate knowledge of costs. Consequently prices quoted by such concerns are regulated largely through guess-work. If the guess happens to be right, there are no red-ink figures resulting. However, in such cases it often happens that the dealer suffers greatly because the manufacturer is too good a guesser in favor of himself.

It is true, of course, that reductions in prices can be effected by cheapening production. Under existing conditions, it is almost a foregone conclusion that if "pre-war prices" can be allowed to prevail, they must result from a process of cheapening in production; and that is the only means whereby bankruptcy ordinarily can be prevented.

The manufacturer who pays his workmen living wages and maintains his standards of construction, to the extent that the same "pre-war" grade of materials is still used, cannot under any circumstances reduce his costs sufficiently to bring about "pre-war" selling prices.

There can be no logical argument presented, under prevailing conditions, to prove that "pre-war prices" are still offered, quality considered.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Municipal Council of the City of Edmonton hereby refers to the Burgeesses for their approval the following questions:

1—Shall the Council pass a bylaw creating a debt in the sum of \$200,000.00 for the purpose of making further extensions and additions to the Municipal Telephone System including the construction of a new exchange building on the North side of the river and the installation of five hundred lines of modern apparatus with the necessary power plant, cables, fittings, fixtures and labor.
Twenty year debentures, interest 6 per cent, semi-annually.
Sinking fund plan:
Ratable property according to the last revised assessment roll (1918).
Total debenture debt. \$20,827,417.47
Local improvement debt and other debts not affecting 90 per cent borrowing power. \$10,963,411.53
Debenture debt affected by 30 per cent limit. \$9,864,005.84
2—Are you in favor of the Council taking the necessary action to provide for the dividing of the City into wards?
The vote will be held on Tuesday, the 27th day of May, 1919, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the following places, in the polling subdivisions respectively named in Schedule "B" to Bylaw No. 6, 1917, namely:
No. 1—Strand Hotel, West Edmonton.
No. 2—Stambaugh's Office, 12827 Fort Trail.
No. 3—Norwood School, Norwood Boulevard.
No. 4—Market Building, 101st Street (Hook Signs).
No. 5—Market Hall, Dominion Square.
No. 6—May's Showroom, 10339 Jasper Avenue.
No. 7—Hughes' Grocery, 10128 124th Street.
No. 8—Tipton Investment Office, 10428 Whyte Avenue.
No. 9—King Edward School, 85th Avenue and 101st Street.
No. 10—King Edward Park Store, 8951 Whyte Avenue.
No. 11—11231 79th Street.
The result of the voting will be declared at the Council Chamber in the Civic Block, at the hour of noon on Friday, the 30th day of May, 1919.
CHAS. ED. K. COX, City Clerk.
The Mayor, if requested, will not later than noon on the last lawful day preceding the voting, appoint agents to attend the polls on behalf of persons promoting or opposing the said questions.

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PATHE PATHEPHONE

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"QUEEN ANNE" PATHE
(In Mahogany and American Walnut)

All exposed metal parts nickel-plated. Equipped with tone control. Pathé Universal sound box playing all records, full-tone Pathé sapphires, jewel point for playing records using a diamond point, ivory case for sapphires, two ivory needle cups for steel needles, powerful four-spring silent long-running motor with speed adjuster. Dimensions: Height 46 inches, width 22 inches, depth 23 inches. Equipped to play all makes of disc records.

Price, \$260.00

"LOUIS XVI" PATHE
Mahogany

All exposed metal parts gold-plated. Equipped with tone control. Pathé sound box, sound box for lateral-cut records, full-tone Pathé sapphires, jewel point for playing records using a diamond point, ivory case for sapphires, two ivory needle cups for steel needles, one ivory cup for used needles, powerful silent long-running motor with speed adjuster, four record filing albums. Dimensions: Height 48 inches, width 22 inches, depth 23 inches. Equipped to play all makes of disc records.

Price, \$385.00

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the Statute in that behalf the Municipal Council of the City of Edmonton hereby submits to the Electors the following question:
Are you in favor of paying each member of the Council the sum of \$10.00 for each meeting of the Council attended by him during his term of office, and for each committee meeting so attended the sum of \$5.00. Provided that the total sum payable to any member shall not be greater than \$100.00 during any month.

The vote will be held on Tuesday, the 27th day of May, 1919, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the following places in the polling subdivisions respectively named in Schedule "B" to Bylaw No. 6, 1917, namely:
No. 1—Strand Hotel, West Edmonton.
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CHAS. ED. K. COX, City Clerk.
The Mayor, if requested, will not later than noon on the last lawful day preceding the voting, appoint agents to attend the polls on behalf of persons promoting or opposing the said questions.

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Shipment of Newest Patterns Hats, up-to-the minute modes and vogues—just arrived at Pattern Hat Shop. You will like our Millinery. Your hat is here. Come in and try it on. **PATTERN HAT SHOP** (Mrs. W. H. Todd), 9981 Jasper Avenue, opposite Hallier's.

THE AMUSEMENTS TAX ACT

Every person attending an exhibition, performance or entertainment at a place of amusement to which an entrance or admission fee is charged shall on each admission thereat pay an amusement tax at the following rates:

- (1) When the price of admission is from 10c to 20c inclusive, a tax of 1c.
- (2) When the price of admission is more than 20c and not more than 75c, a tax of 2½c.
- (3) When the price of admission is more than 75c and not more than \$1.00, a tax of 5c.
- (4) When the price of admission is more than \$1.00 but not more than \$2.00, a tax of 10c.
- (5) When the price of admission is more than \$2.00, a tax of 25c.
- (6) A tax of 25c shall be paid by every person attending any boxing bouts or contests.
- (7) Where admission is given by pass or complimentary tickets a tax shall be payable at the highest rate charged for the performance to which admission is granted.

PENALTIES

Every person who, without having previously paid the tax provided by this Act, enters a place of amusement in the province for the purpose of attending an exhibition, performance, entertainment or game shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of not more than \$50.00 for each offence, and in default of the payment of the fine and costs, to imprisonment for not more than six months.

Every owner of a place of amusement and every employe of an owner of a place of amusement who permits or authorizes or is a party or privy to the admission of any person to a place of amusement for the purpose of attending an exhibition, performance, entertainment or game therein, without payment of the tax provided for by this Act, shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of not less than \$25.00, nor more than \$200.00 for each offence, and, in default of payment of the fine and costs, to imprisonment for not more than six months.

E. TROWBRIDGE,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.
Edmonton, April 24th, 1919.

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE FEES

1. \$5 in case of a motorcycle, and for any other motor vehicle according to the length of wheel base in inches as follows:

For motor vehicles not exceeding 100 inches.....	\$15.00
Exceeding 100 inches but not exceeding 105 inches.....	17.50
Exceeding 105 inches but not exceeding 110 inches.....	20.00
Exceeding 110 inches but not exceeding 115 inches.....	22.50
Exceeding 115 inches but not exceeding 120 inches.....	25.00
Exceeding 120 inches but not exceeding 125 inches.....	27.50
Exceeding 125 inches but not exceeding 130 inches.....	30.00
Exceeding 130 inches but not exceeding 135 inches.....	32.50
For every motor vehicle exceeding 135 inches.....	35.00

2. The foregoing fees shall include the cost of one set of number plates.

3. The fee, payable after October 1 in any year, shall be one-half of the fee above prescribed.

4. Fire engines and fire patrol apparatus, police patrol and municipal owned ambulances shall be exempt from payment of the above fees, but such motor vehicles shall be registered and number plates issued on payment of fee of one dollar for each pair of number plates on filing of the statement required under section 3 of "The Motor Vehicle Act."

E. TROWBRIDGE,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.
Edmonton, April 24th, 1919.

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