

MUNICIPAL PUBLICATIONS.

Public interest in municipal affairs has had a great awakening, and everywhere citizens are wanting more facts. What more reliable source of information could there be than an official journal published by the city government itself? Such a publication is not intended to take the place of newspapers. Our various daily sheets cannot be expected to fill up their news space with detailed reports on what is taking place in the city government. If the city maintained an official publication, every citizen would know the one source where official information could be obtained.

To be useful a publication of this character should contain such items as, a directory of city officials, a calendar of meetings, proceedings of council including ordinances and adopted resolutions, reports of city departments, reports of commissions, proposals and bids, and similar topics.

A publication of this nature is not intended to decry, criticize or praise any individual or group. It should give a concise, impartial, and truthful statement of the work of the city from day to day. It would meet a speedy doom if it became the means of airing individual opinions or if it were used to promote personal power. Its purpose should be to inform, not to entertain.

A municipal newspaper is not a novelty; it is the oldest form of journalism. The daily Tching-pao, or Peking News, was the contemporary of Charlemagne and has missed few issues in the 1200 years that have elapsed since that time. Many cities in the United States have official publications. That of New York has been in existence for more than a third of a century. Baltimore, Boston, Columbus, San Francisco, Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, and many other cities have splendid official publications. Some of these cities send their publications free to all taxpayers and registered voters. Others make a nominal charge ranging from twenty-four cents to a dollar and a half a year. New York's daily publication is twenty dollars a year.

In 1909 and a few succeeding years the city government of Philadelphia published a monthly journal devoted mainly to reports from various branches of the department of public works, together with an official directory, general facts about Philadelphia, and a summary of the Philadelphia government. It was profusely illustrated and more historical in its nature than the kind of publication herein advocated.

Some of the advantages of an official publication are:—one place for all facts, regularly published, easily obtained, accurate, inexpensive, up to date, a current history of city government, an asset to any city.—Philadelphia Bureau of Municipal Research.

A tree will make a million matches; a match may destroy a million trees. When in the woods take no chances with lighted matches, tobacco, or camp-fire.—Get the habit. Be careful with fires in the woods.

Many campers and hunters add greatly to the danger of forest fires by their carelessness. They are not asked to curtail their enjoyment of the forest, but just to exercise that care which they always use when handling fire about their own premises.

There are now four forest schools organized as departments of Canadian universities. These in the order of their establishment are, Toronto, Laval, New Brunswick and British Columbia. The last named school was organized in the past few months.

Our Services At Your Disposal

Municipalities that are contemplating the issue of Bonds, the investment of Sinking Funds, or any change in financial policy, are cordially invited to avail themselves of our services as specialists in—

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Service to Municipalities

THE Statistical Department of this Corporation is at all times prepared to assist Municipal officials in the preparation and sale of their debentures.

Consult us in regard to the—

- (1) Interest rates most suitable for current markets.
- (2) Form in which debentures should be issued to bring the best price.
- (3) Cost of printing bonds.
- (4) Bond Market conditions.

DOMINION SECURITIES CORPORATION-LIMITED

26 KING ST. EAST - TORONTO
MONTREAL LONDON, ENG.