

amount of \$50,000, for the purpose of establishing electrical works and plant for lighting our streets and civic buildings. These by-laws, with the already authorized issue of debentures for the waterworks, and the extensive street improvements recently inaugurated, on the frontage tax system, make the civic expenditure, proposed or otherwise, very heavy.

As to the first mentioned of these three by-laws, The Commercial is entirely opposed to the proposed expenditure. It is very doubtful if it is the duty of the municipality to furnish reading matter for a portion of the citizens. Public libraries became recognized at a time when books were rare and costly. In our day literature is within the reach of all. Only a limited section of the community makes any use of the free public library, and that mainly the novel-reading section. At best the public library is a luxury, and Winnipeg is

western outskirts of the city, would probably consider the statement not too strong. The disposal of Winnipeg garbage has been an excessively expensive matter for many years, and after all this expenditure large portions of the city are in a chronic state of filthiness. There seems to be altogether too much garbage hauling. Some of this should be done at the expense of citizens who create the garbage. A great deal of this production of garbage for removal by the city is unnecessary. When we have our new waterworks system in operation, there should be less garbage to remove. Citizens who refuse to use the water, should be taxed full water rates, the same as those who use water, and a special tax should also be placed upon all above ground or cess-pool closets, within the area served by the water mains. This would have the effect of materially cleansing the unwholesomeness of the

looked into the matter, know well where the weakness lies. Our system of municipal government may be suitable for a country village or rural town, but it is an extravagant system for a city. With the disadvantages of our civic government machine so generally recognized, it does seem strange that nothing can be done to bring order out of chaos and place our affairs on a better business basis.

TREE PLANTING.

The Commercial publishes an article this week in another column on "Tree Planting in Manitoba," written by A. P. Stevenson, of Nelson. This is not strictly a commercial article, but it treats of a subject which should be of great interest in Manitoba, and it is a matter which The Commercial has frequently discussed, with the object of encouraging tree planting. It is in a sense a commercial question,



MANITOBA FARM HOMES—Residence of A. P. Stevenson, Nelson, Man.

not in a position to indulge in luxuries. Our municipal taxation is already over 2 cents on the dollar, and that on an inflated assessment, while in addition to this there are heavy frontage tax charges, which make the burden of taxation very grievous, amounting in some cases to practically the rental value of the property. Under such circumstances the free public library proposal can well afford to stand over.

Regarding the establishment of the proposed crematory, if handled properly, this institution should be a saving to the city. The Commercial said some years ago, and more recently repeated the statement, that "the greatest waste of labor on the North American continent was probably in connection with the disposal of Winnipeg garbage." This is a strong statement; but any citizen who has witnessed the efforts to haul this garbage, in wet weather, to the nuisance ground on the

city under the present conditions.

Regarding the electric lighting by-law, The Commercial is in favor of all such plant being owned and operated by the city, though municipal ownership is less urgent in this case than in regard to the waterworks. The expenditure, however, should prove a profitable investment for the city, providing that reasonable energy and business ability is given to the management of the work. Just here is where the difficulty comes in. Under our present system of municipal government, good business management is not looked for. Just at the present time a little more than the usual interest is being taken in civic affairs, and much criticism is heard as to the handling of the city's business. It is an easy matter to find fault and point out mistakes after they have been made, but after all, the system of civic government, rather than the individual is principally to blame. Business men who have

as the planting of trees would add materially to the value of our farms. Mr. Stevenson has been very successful in the cultivation of fruits as well as in growing trees, and besides small fruits, he has succeeded in acclimatizing some varieties of apples and crabs at his farm. We show herewith a cut of Mr. Stevenson's residence and surroundings, which will indicate what may be accomplished by Manitoba farmers in beautifying their premises, by giving a little attention to the cultivation of trees and shrubs.

DEARTH OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

The growth of population in Winnipeg and tributary territory has not increased the supply of domestic servants. There has never been a plethora of this class of labor in Manitoba, but instead of an increased supply with increasing population, the scarcity of domestic help seems as great as ever.