

consider it an honour to do so. Penalties are imposed for a refusal to serve in any position to which a citizen may be elected. The municipal assembly is composed of 126 members, representing 326 wards. (At present it consists of 144 members) One-half, at least, must be house-owners. The members are chosen for six years, one-third retiring every two years, thus giving permanency to the governing body by making the changes gradual. This body controls the affairs of the city. It chooses, also, the upper branches of the city government known as the magistracy, composed of the mayor and the board of aldermen, 32 in number, 15 of whom are salaried, and 17 are honorary members. The term of the mayor is 12 years; the salary about \$7,500. The mayoralty is regarded as a position of high honour. The salaried aldermen are elected for 12 years by the municipal assembly, with special regard to their qualifications. Their salaries are higher than those of the local judges. The custom is to re-elect good men. The term of the unpaid aldermen is six years and they are usually chosen from men who have distinguished themselves for efficient public service. Voters who elect the municipal assembly are divided into three classes (as stated in the text). The result is that the majority of the assembly is chosen by a minority of the voters. The next feature so far as our observation goes, is almost wholly unknown in this country. These two chambers are supplemented in Berlin by a body of 70 citizen deputies, selected by the municipal assembly from leading citizens, to serve in joint committees for the administration of special affairs, such as the relief of the poor, schools, etc. At the meeting of these committees an alderman acts as chairman. Under this executive staff of 230 members, all honorary officials and men of independent means, there is a large staff of paid officials, appointed for life, as is the rule in the German civil service.

"The police is administered by the State instead of the city, the force consisting of about 3,000 men. The expense, (about \$400,000 a year) is borne by the city.

"The streets of Berlin are now taken care of by the city instead of the State, which up to 1874 had the maintenance.

"The revenue of the city, so far as raised by taxation, comprises an annual income tax of three per cent. on all incomes above a certain amount; house and tax, divided between landlord and tenant, and various minor special taxes.

"The net debt of the city is about four millions, a decrease of nearly two millions since 1876. This is a striking contrast to New York, whose debt is several hundred millions."

Prior to 1835 many of the towns, boroughs and cities of England were incorporated in various ways, but there was no uniformity in the constitution or powers of these corporate bodies. But the Municipal Corporations Reform Act did a great deal to bring about the uniformity of local self-government, and at one time (referring to the English system of corporate local government) Mr. Gladstone stated, "Our municipalities produce qualities which are the best safeguards of England's greatness."

Ambassador Bryce says that this statute and the Distribution Bill of 1885 have turned Great Britain into a democratic country, changing the character of its government almost as profoundly as did the Reform Act of 1832, and it is on this democratic principle that

we find the Municipal Act of British Columbia is founded.

In order to secure, in British Columbia, not only a continuity of policy but also to safeguard the public interest to the greatest extent, it is absolutely necessary that one-half, or some proportion of the governing body should retire each year, instead of the entire body retiring as at present.

Under the Provincial Municipal Act, our municipal government is divided into several heads, the most important of which is the financial aspect, because on the necessary finances (which are derived from taxation on the land and other sources) the other subdivisions of municipal government depend entirely.

The members of this Convention are aware how the revenue of every city and municipality in British Columbia is derived by means of taxation.

But there are one or two differences in the Municipal Clauses Act with regard to the assessment. That is to say, that there is no provision made for inserting a parcel of land on the Assessment Roll after the Court of Revision, if it has been omitted by the Assessor. This should be brought to the attention of the Municipal Commission, and some clause inserted in the Act whereby errors of this kind could be rectified.

There is also another serious matter in connection with the assessment, which should be remedied. For illustration, consider two inside lots, the property of A and B respectively. The actual market value of A's lot is \$1000 and it is assessed as such. The value of B's lot is the same, but the Assessor has made a mistake and put down the value of B's lot as \$500. The Court of Revision has no power to increase B's lot to its actual value without a complaint from some ratepayer that this lot is assessed for less than it should be. A clause should be inserted to correct this also.

The other resources from which the revenue of a municipality is derived are trade and liquor licenses, etc.

Under the head of public convenience, are roads, streets, bridges, and sidewalks. As you are aware under the Act monies can be raised by way of by-laws, which provide for the sale of debentures extending over a period of fifty years, for streets and roads.

The construction of streets and roads in the Province of British Columbia has been a problem for the different civic and municipal engineers to solve, but the problem has not been solved. This is chiefly due to climatic conditions. A large percentage of the monies raised by by-laws bring no results, on account of the experiments that have to be tried on road and street construction. The engineers of this province must come together sooner or later, and endeavour to solve the problem that so strikingly lies before them in this regard.

Public utilities such as electric light and water, should be governed by the municipality as if they were private joint stock companies, with this difference only; that instead of paying dividends to its shareholders, the water and light should be applied at cost to the consumers, after taking into consideration the sinking fund and interest, and making full provision for depreciation on plant and machinery.

Public health should include a sewerage system, cemeteries, parks and hospitals. The hospital system as at present constituted should be entirely renovated, and the cities and municipalities should adopt the system in vogue in Manitoba, and have those institutions under the control of the governing body.

The educational system in operation in the Province of British Columbia is second to none on the North