

## LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

### HOW THE METROPOLIS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE IS GOVERNED.

A Representative Body Numbering One Hundred and Thirty-Eight Men, Including Some Noblemen, Having Direct Control Over Practically the Entire City—Powers of the Council—Personality of the Members.

All citizens who consider seriously the problem of improving municipal government will do well to examine carefully the case of London, the metropolis of the British Empire. The fact that a new County Council has just been elected makes it timely to give some information concerning London's new governing body. Many think London's experience is not of much value to us because municipal government there is a growth of centuries. As a matter of fact, London has had to make a new beginning in the matter of municipal government within the past few years, and it is a task which still calls for all the energies of its citizens.

Down to 1889 the only part of London which was a self-governing municipality was the ancient city. The forms of government there were and are undemocratic and largely obsolete and absurd. For more than a century the city had ceased to have any right to call itself London. The nominal population of the old city is 37,775. Before 1889 the whole of the vast remaining population outside the city boundaries of more than 4,000,000 persons had as a makeshift for municipal government a collection of heterogeneous and independent bodies. Of these the most important were the vestries. Certain districts were independent municipalities with mayors, having attained that dignity long before the metropolis had swallowed them up. The police of the metropolitan district were then, as they are still, under the authority of the Home Office, a department of the Imperial Government. Out of this chaos order has not yet been reduced, but a beginning has been made by the establishment of the London County Council.

The existence of ancient and obstructive institutions made the work of re-organizing local government much more difficult than it would have been in the case of a newer city, with fewer historical associations.

#### SEVEN DIFFERENT LONDONS.

London has seven different boundaries for different administrative and legal purposes. They are:

1. The territory covered by the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and marriages.
2. The area from which the County Council is elected.
3. The London School Board District.
4. The city of London.
5. The Central Criminal Court District.
6. The Metropolitan Parliamentary Boroughs.
7. The Metropolitan Police District, not including the city of London.

#### THE OLD CITY'S DIGNITIES.

When the County Council was first formed a compromise was made with the city, which surrendered a few of its powers, but none of its dignities. It retained control of the police in its district, while the new County Council did not get that power for itself from the Government. But a Parliamentary commission has recently reported in favor of transferring not only the powers but the titles and dignities of the city to the municipality of the whole of London. The British Parliament's first attempt to deal with the question of a coherent municipal government for London resulted in the formation of the Metropolitan Board of Works. It was a makeshift, but not entirely a worthless one.

In 1850 the government of London outside the city was carried on by 300 different and independent bodies. The care and maintenance of the streets and pavements, the sewer system and most of the important functions of local government were in the hands of the parish vestries.

The fire apparatus consisted of a hand engine in each parish and the hand engines of the insurance companies. Both banks of the Thames were regularly inundated. Only three bridges were free. The sewage was emptied into the river within the metropolitan limits. The death rate was twenty-five in the thousand.

The Local Government act of 1855 created the Metropolitan Board of Works, a central authority, with jurisdiction in certain matters over the whole of London outside the city. Thirty-nine vestries and district boards were organized by the act. These elected the members of the Board of Works.

During the thirty-three years of its life 124 acts were passed amending and increasing the powers of the board. Those which it handed over to the County Council in 1889 were:

1. The maintenance of the main sewers, the interception of sewage from the Thames, its purification and distribution.
2. The prevention of Thames floods.
3. The formation of new thoroughfares in crowded districts.
4. Control over the formation of new streets, the erection of buildings and the construction of local sewers. Naming streets and numbering houses.
5. Charge of the Thames bridges, tunnels and ferries.
6. Formation of parks and gardens and preservation of commons.
7. Demolition of houses in condemned areas and the sale and letting of the land for improvement.
8. Maintaining a fire brigade.
9. Supervision of theatres.
10. Sanctioning tramways.
11. Controlling construction of railway bridges.
12. A limited control over the gas and water supply.
13. The control of the storage and sale of explosives and inflammable substances.
14. Supervision of slaughter-houses and offensive businesses, cow-sheds and dairies, and the prevention of the spread of contagious diseases among cattle, horses and dogs.

15. The supervision of baby-farming and minor matters of detail.

The board accomplished a vast amount of work. It drained London, building over 1,100 miles of sewers. It built three magnificent embankments on Northumberland avenue, for which the Duke of Northumberland had to be paid \$2,500,000. In all it spent about \$40,000,000 in opening new streets. It freed all the bridges of tolls, and rebuilt three. It made immense additions to the public open spaces of London, and created an efficient fire brigade.

#### CORRUPTION IN THE BOARD.

The board did a great deal for London, but it cost a great deal. Bribery and gross jobbery were proved against it. This made the creation of a new municipal body, elected directly by the people—which all progressive politicians had long demanded—a matter of immediate necessity. Londoners had allowed themselves to be robbed without more than half suspecting it, but when they were sure of it they raised a decided objection.

The London County Council was created in common with other county councils all over England, by the Local Government act of 1888. London, in the terms of the act, became an administrative county, with boundaries coterminous with those of the defunct Metropolitan Board of Works.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council consists of a Chairman, nineteen Aldermen and 118 Councillors. The Chairman is not necessarily a member of the Council. The term of office for Aldermen is six years, and ten or nine retire every alternate three years. The Councillors are elected for three years and will all retire together this year—1895. The Councillors are elected directly by the rate-payers, and the Councillors elect the Aldermen, but not necessarily from their own number. The duties of Aldermen and Councillors are the same. The county of London is divided into fifty-seven electoral divisions.

The first meeting of the County Council was held on March 21, 1889. Lord Rosebery was elected Chairman. The acceptance of this office by Mr. Gladstone's first lieutenant, the present Premier, was very encouraging for the success of the Council. The present Chairman is Mr. Arthur Arnold, a distinguished political economist.

#### POWERS OF THE COUNCIL.

The powers, duties and liabilities of the Council are:

1. Those of the Metropolitan Board of Works, already enumerated.
  2. The granting of music and dancing licenses in the metropolis, including the city; the management of asylums for pauper lunatics and reformatory and industrial schools, and the regulation of weights and measures.
  3. Powers transferred from various authorities with regard to highways; licensing of slaughter-houses and election of coroners.
  4. New powers conferred by Parliament in respect to technical education; registration of electors; medical officers of health; inspection of factories to secure means of escape from fire; by-laws for the suppression of nuisances, and regulation of overhead wires and the removal of sky signs; the appointment of inspectors under the Shop Hours Act, 1892.
- The vestries continue to have charge of paving, lighting and the smaller sewers. The relations between them and the Council are in the hands of conference committees of the Council.
- The expenditure of the Council is defrayed out of capital money raised by the issue of stock and current income raised by a county rate. The Council's powers to expend capital money are conferred by an annual act of Parliament.

#### THE COUNCIL'S TAX RATE.

The policy of the advanced party in the Council is to issue continually more stock, and also, it is alleged, to increase the rate. The rate for the past year was 26 cents in the pound sterling. Out of this varying sum were granted to parishes in relief of local poor rates, according to their poverty. The Council meets weekly and receives reports from its twenty standing committees. It may delegate every power to committees, except that of making a rate of raising money. The great bulk of its business is done by committees.

The cares of the Council's standing committees would fill volumes—and very interesting ones. The Asylums Committee has 10,000 lunatics to watch over. The Housing of the Working Classes Committee is charged with the building of model dwellings on a great area, which has been occupied by condemned slums. All the common lodging-houses in the county are under the supervision of another committee.

The Council has carried out the tasks left to it by the Board of Works, and has entered on immense undertakings in the way of destroying slums and improving the houses and general condition of the poor. It has increased the size and efficiency of the Fire Brigade. It has built a tunnel under the Thames. It has added three large and many smaller parks to the 2,636 acres already under its care. The largest London parks are still in the hands of Commissioners.

The present County Council, elected in March is the third since the creation of the body. The character and standing of its members will be a matter of interest. It fortunately turned out that Englishmen with political ambition, and that is the highest ambition they indulge in, were not above public service in the County Council. Conservatives, who were not very amicably disposed toward the new body, although it was a creation of their government, did not scornfully ignore it. Like sensible men, they went in and fought their Radical opponents as hard as they could.

#### PERSONALITY OF THE MEMBERS.

Lord Rosebery's example in offering himself for election as a Progressive or Radical for East Finsbury was of the greatest value. British Radicals cannot help feeling an unusually deep interest in a Radical who is also an Earl and a friend of the Prince of Wales.

One of the most striking figures in the Council is undoubtedly that of John Burns, Progressive Member for Battersea. He is an engineer by trade, thirty-six years old, first attained prominence as a member of labor organizations, then entered the County Council and then Parliament. He is a Socialist of a practical kind, taking what he can get when he cannot get all he wants. He is a hero of the British

working people and is a man of the strongest and most irreproachable character.

John Williams Ben is also an important member of the Council. He was elected from East Finsbury, a district which also returned Lord Rosebery.

The city of London, over which the Council has at present but little authority, nevertheless elects four members to it. Among these is the Duke of Norfolk, Premier Peer and hereditary Earl Marshal, of England. He is a Moderate.

#### NOBLEMEN COUNCILLORS.

Other peers in the Council are Lord Dunraven, Lord Farrer and Lord Welby. Several former members of the Government are in it. About half the Councillors are professional or university men.

Women rate-payers have the right to vote for members of the County Council. A strong effort was made by certain women to maintain their right to sit in the Council. Lady Sandhurst was elected to the first Council, but was not allowed to sit.

One of the great objects for which the Progressives of the Council are fighting is the control of the police. This has been retained by the Government on the pretext that London is the imperial capital, and that its peace is more the concern of the nation than of the people of the metropolis.

The County Council appears to have a conception of the size of the task of governing London which Parliament and other bodies have not had. A committee was appointed to consider the means of increasing the water supply of the metropolis. As the works proposed could not be completed within ten years it was held that it would be absurd to provide for a supply which would only be just sufficient at the end of that period. It was decided that the works should be adequate to supply water to the population of fifty years hence.

What will the population be then? The number of persons at present dependent on the water supply is about 5,750,000. If the metropolis grows at the rate of the period from 1881 to 1891 the population at the end of fifty years will be 17,527,645. If it only grows by the natural increase of births over deaths it will be 10,836,989 in 1941. After considering these and various other calculations the County Council decided that 12,500,000 was a fair estimate of the population of London in 1941.

#### THE BLACKSMITH SCOWLS.

Not Because He is Savage, but that is His Trademark.

To disguise himself, the blacksmith has only, if possible, to put on a smile, and a frank and open expression. As the smith wields his hammer with an energy that has something fierce and vengeful about it, he automatically contracts his brows into a frown. He does this partly, no doubt to protect his eyes from the flying flakes of metal, but if you watch the face of the man who holds the iron on the anvil, you will find that, although he lowers his eyebrows somewhat, as he sledges descend, he does not scowl, as do the strikers. In most blacksmiths the constant exercise of the corrugator supercilli muscles causes a permanent frown, and gives the face a somewhat hard expression; but whether there is any inward and spiritual state corresponding with his outward and visible sign, I am not quite sure.

I remember being a good deal impressed, when visiting in a shipbuilding town, by the intent gaze and bent brows of the riveters and boiler-smiths with whom I was brought in contact. One instinctively wondered at first what there was about a harmless hospital surgeon, who ministered to them in times of dire trouble, to excite such an air of watchful hostility. I soon found, however, that no hostile sentiments were entertained, but that the frowning, falciform expression was explained partly by the "smith's scowl," above mentioned, and partly by the fact that all these men were rendered somewhat deaf by their noisy work, and, in consequence, had a habit of closely watching the face of any one who conversed with them. Whether their characters in any way corresponded with their acquired expressions I did not discover; there was a grave courtesy in their demeanor while in hospital which was singularly dignified and pleasing, although always slightly suggestive of the politeness of foes during an armistice.

#### GRAINS OF GOLD.

Just as you are pleased at finding faults, you are displeased at finding perfections. —Lavater.

I shall leave the world without regret, for it hardly contains a single good listener. —Fontenelle.

Love is more pleasing than marriage, because romances are more amusing than history. —Chamfort.

Women cherish fashion, because it rejuvenates them, or at least renews them. —Mme. de Prezeux.

Who partakes in another's joys is a more humane character than he who partakes in his griefs. —Lavater.

Reason can not show itself more reasonable than to cease reasoning on things above reason. —Sir P. Sidney.

A fool who has a flash of wit creates astonishment and scandal, like hack horses setting out to gallop. —Chamfort.

True friends visit us in prosperity only when invited, but in adversity they come without invitation. —Theophrastus.

The pleasures of the palate deal with us like Egyptian thieves, who strangle those whom they embrace. —Seneca.

Memory is the primary and fundamental power, without which there could be no other intellectual operation. —Johnson.

A cultivated reader of history is domesticated in all families; he dines with Pericles and sups with Titian. —Willmott.

If the wicked flourish, and thou suffer, be not discouraged. They are fated for destruction; thou art dieted for health. —Fuller.

(That you could turn your eyes toward the napes of your necks, and make but an interior survey of your good selves. —Shakespeare.

It is always a sign of poverty of mind when men are ever aiming to appear great for they who are really great never seem to know it. —Cecil.

#### MOUNTED POLICE.

A Picturesque Body of Irregular Cavalry That Keeps the Peace in the Canadian North-West.

One of the most picturesque and excellent bodies of irregular cavalry to be found in North America is the North-West mounted police of Canada. Its duties have been various and semi-military, like those performed on the Texas border by the Texas rangers, and have assisted greatly in the settlement of the North-West. Prior to 1874 that territory was lawless, but the police quartered there that year soon restored respect for law, and whiskey trading with the Indians, smuggling across the border and horse-stealing have been stopped.

The Canadian Government passed law making it a crime to bring stolen property into the territory of the North West, and soon after the Montana Legislature reciprocated, thus making our Northern frontier less lawless than the Mexican border, where contraband and stolen goods find a protecting haven. The boundary line from Manitoba to British Columbia is constantly patrolled by this irregular cavalry, and their officers have been frequently entertained at Assiniboine, our most Northern Montana post.

#### THE NORTH-WEST POLICE.

was organized in 1873, for the maintenance of order in the North-West Territories, which at that time had been recently acquired by Canada. In the autumn of 1873, 150 men were enlisted in Eastern Canada and sent to Manitoba, and that winter were quartered at Fort Garry, about twenty miles from Winnipeg. Lieut.-Col French, of the Royal Artillery, Commandant of the Kingston School of Gunnery, was appointed first in command, with the title of Commissioner of the N.W. M. P. In the spring this force was increased to 300 men, which were horsed, equipped and transferred to Fort Dufferin, now Fort Emerson, Manitoba. During the summer of 1874 this force marched from the Red River to the base of the Rocky Mountains, where a post was established in the foot-hills and named Fort MacLeod.

From this point one battalion marched north and established the post of Fort Saskatchewan, the most northern station now occupied by military troops on this continent. A third post, Fort Pelly, on the Assiniboine River, was then established, and nominated the headquarters for the North-West police. From time to time the original force was increased, and at the outbreak known as the North-West rebellion it was further raised until it numbered 1,000 men, or about its present strength. The force is subdivided into ten divisions of about 100 men each. The pay of this force is the highest of any military force in the world. Staff sergeants, \$1.50 per day; sergeants, \$1; corporals, 85 cents.

#### THE UNIFORM.

of the police is very handsome. For full dress they wear a scarlet tunic with yellow facings, blue cloth riding breeches with yellow stripes, a white helmet, cavalry boots and cavalry overcoat. In winter great fur coats, fur caps and moccasins even are sometimes worn. A fatigue uniform is furnished for field work, that is very serviceable and business-like. Enlistments are from three to five years. The officers' headgear is particularly handsome, being a visorless indented crown of black Persian lambs' wool, faced with a yellow bushy bag on one side. With it is worn black Persian lambs' wool gauntlets to match. The force is armed with the Winchester rifle and revolver. The saddles are of a frontier type, and the gun is slung in a strap across the pommel of the saddle, as men in the South frequently secure their guns when deer hunting.

The duties of this force, are both military and civil. They are drilled like a military organization and liable, like militia, to be called into service. Their civil work is various. Preventing smuggling, horse stealing, whiskey traffic with the Indians, enforcing quarantine and timber regulations, fighting forest fires and giving a general civil protection to inhabitants of the North-West.

Persons who have crossed the continent, via the Canadian Pacific, have probably seen detachments of this force at Banff, Regina and Calgary are garrisoned stations. Among the private and non-commissioned officers are frequently found the younger sons of English gentlemen, with prospective title, working up to get a commission. The police have one very good polo club.

#### Bullet Marks in a Church Door.

An interesting discovery has been made at the Church of St. Mary, with St Andrew, Tenbyham, in Kent. The western door recently underwent renovation, and the removal of all superficial covering disclosed that the portal was of fine massive oak, which, on examination, was found to be scarred in several places with bullet marks. There are eight distinct punctures, in some of which the leaden bullets still remain imbedded. It is supposed that they were fired into the door by some of Cromwell's soldiers when engaged in the spoliation and desecration of the Kentish churches.

#### Cerebro-Atomitism.

Jargon—Stimlet's brain is proof to me of the atomic theory.

Gabbe—How?

Jargon—The ultimate atom, you know; so small as to be incapable of division.

For twenty-five years

**DUNN'S BAKING POWDER**  
THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND  
LARGEST SALE IN CANADA.

#### THE

#### HANDS

Foot of Life's Hill—How Well. From the Foot of Life's Hill—How Well. From the Foot of Life's Hill—How Well. From the Foot of Life's Hill—How Well.

"I am now almost at the foot of the hill of life, having attained the 76th year of my age, and never during that time have I made a statement more willingly and conscientiously than now. My body has been tortured by pain for upwards of thirty years, caused by rheumatism, and there are thousands enduring a like affliction that need not if they would but heed my experience and avail themselves of the proper means of relief. The disease first affected my hip and spread to my legs and arms. Like many sufferers I spared neither trouble nor expense in seeking something to alleviate the pain. The disease had made me so helpless that I was unable to put on my coat and my hands and fingers were being twisted out of shape. There seemed not the shadow of a hope of relief and very naturally I became discouraged and disheartened, and time after time have I given up in despair. While in Arizona three years ago I heard of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I sent for six boxes in order to give them a fair trial. I followed the directions closely and by the time the fourth box was finished the pain had greatly lessened and I was much improved. My friends having witnessed the



I WAS UNABLE TO PUT ON MY COAT.

wonderful effect upon my body could not help admiring the Pink Pills, and being about to leave for the east, I gave the remaining two boxes to them. Unfortunately I neglected getting another supply for nearly a year after returning to this part and I felt that to me Pink Pills were one of the necessities of life. Last spring I procured a few boxes and have been taking them since with a very satisfactory effect am glad to say. Now I feel like a new man entirely free from pain or stiffness of joint. I have a slight numbness of feet and half way to the knee, but am confident that these pills will relieve this feeling. Although well advanced in years, I am able and do walk many miles a day. For rheumatism Dr. Williams' Pink Pills stand pre-eminently above all other medicines according to my experience and I urge a trial on all suffering from this painful malady."

The above is an unvarnished statement of facts as told the Advance recently by Mr. George Selleck, an esteemed resident of Miller's Corners, no one hearing the earnest manner of his recital could fail to be convinced of Mr. Selleck's sincerity. But if this were not enough hundreds of witnesses could be summoned, if need be, to prove the truth of every word stated. Mr. Angus Buchanan, the well known druggist and popular reeve of Kemptonville, speaks of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills as one of the most popular remedies known, having a great sale among his customers and giving general satisfaction.

Rheumatism, sciatica, neuralgia, partial paralysis, locomotor ataxia, nervous headache, nervous prostration and diseases depending on humors in the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, etc., all disappear before a fair treatment with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They give a healthy glow to pale and sallow complexions and build up and renew the entire system. Sold by all dealers or sent postpaid at 50c. a box or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brookville, Ont., or Schenectady, N. Y. Don't be persuaded to take some substitute.

#### Another Too Honest.

Hotel Clerk—That lawyer stopping with us is the most honest man I ever heard of.

Landlord—Why?

Clerk—He sits up in a chair and sleeps at night.

Landlord—What's that got to do with it.

Clerk—He says after his day's work is over, he doesn't think he ought to lie in bed.

#### Still Unsatisfied.

First Stranger—Sir, my wife says you have been staring at her for the last half hour. I want an apology.

Second Stranger—Certainly. I may have been looking at your wife, but I was in a deep study and did not see her at all.

Gee! When she hears that she will be madder than ever.

#### In the Meat Market.

Butcher—Will you have a round steak Miss?

Young Housekeeper—Oh, I don't care what shape it is, so it's tender.

#### The Word Pained Him.

Weary Walker—How much did work that agent for, Raggy?

Raggy Roberts—I wish yer wouldn't use that word work to me. It's unperfectual.

#### On the Street.

Kindly old gent—Ah, little girl, are you going somewhere?

Little girl (with amazing superiority)—Of course I am. You don't suppose I could go nowhere, do you?

Channing leads to knavery. It is but a step from one to the other, and that very slippery. —Bruyere