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MAYORS AND MEMBERS

A report that the Ontario government intended by order in council, or otherwise, to make it obligatory that members of municipal councils running as candidates in provincial elections should resign their places on the municipal boards has been denied by the government. It may be good politics at election time to deny such an intention, but many will regret that the Ontario government does not take some such step. It is still true that "no man can serve two masters" and at the present time the interests and the authority of governments and municipalities seem to clash at every turn. In recent years there has been so much encroachment by the province on the rights and authority of the municipalities that unless a halt is called the municipality will be shorn even of the form of self-government. Under the plea that municipalities have been extravagant and reckless in their expenditures and actions the provincial government has been interfering with municipal government, supervising municipal government, and checking municipal government to such an extent that the nearest approach to the democratic self-government is to-day almost a thing of the past. The idea that municipalities are not fit to govern themselves and should be supervised to the extinction of any local liberty is an absurd one and the direct antithesis of democracy. In an address at Timmins some years ago Mr. Lord, then vice-president of the American Federation of Labour, made an impassioned appeal for the liberty of the subject. One right he emphasized repeatedly—"the right even to make mistakes," as he phrased it. All thoughtful people who heard the address were impressed by the idea that Mr. Lord sought to convey. It was recognized as fundamental to the thought of true liberty and the right of self-government. Municipal government is closer to every man than any other form of administration. The citizen not only feels the virtue or folly of municipal administration, but he also is in position to influence it directly or change it if unsatisfactory. He has even the right to maintain it in office, even though it is not what it should be. In other words, he has the right to make a mistake. The popular will has a more direct and effective expression in municipal government than in any other sphere of democracy. Even when carelessness or indifference or credulity combine to maintain inferior municipal government, the citizens at large are still within their rights, and any higher powers (provinces or Dominion or whatnot) may be sure that the citizens themselves are bearing the burden for any mistakes. Government interference in municipal affairs does little more than provide excuse for mismanagement that would otherwise be promptly dealt with by the people misgoverned locally.

Recently, however, the provincial government (specially while Hon. David Croll acted as czar of all Ontario municipalities) has sought to steal away the right to make mistakes from all municipalities. Only a czarism would have the effrontery to set itself as a judge to say what is and what is not a mistake in municipal administration generally. The tendency in the last few years is for the province to assume that municipalities lack the carefulness, the judgment, the economy and the farsightedness to govern themselves. The municipalities need guidance, direction, supervision, according to this theory. Who is to give this superior control? The very people that suggest "the province" as the answer, are the very ones who accuse the provincial administrations of the past of extravagance and recklessness that make the worst of municipal mismanagement look like the feeble efforts of a partially paralyzed piker. To allow the turning over of the direction of municipal affairs to provincial control, when both past and present provincial governments are agreed that in the several provincial administrations will be found the height of folly, knavery, reckless extravagance and unfairness. One set of provincial politicians condemns the other in such unmeasured terms that it is surely patent to all that to replace municipal government with provincial regulation would be the height of every-thing foolish and absurd.

Perhaps it is interference with municipal affairs that has tempted so many mayors and councillors to offer themselves as candidates on one side or the other for the approaching provincial election. In any event there are many mayors and councillors in the provincial field. Experience in the work of municipal government will be of value to any who become members of the Legislature. The experience would be doubly valuable to the country if it leads to some measure of return of self-government to the municipalities. It is to be hoped at least that the new Legislature will check the injurious and objectionable tendency to rob municipalities of self-government.

To return to the question of mayors and members of council entering the political battle in the

province, much good and little harm would result from legislation that would curb the ambitions of those who would rule municipally and provincially at the same time. There seems a decided clash between the two fields of service. This is particularly true in the case of the mayors of towns of any size. In most towns the mayor who gives full time and service to the municipality will have nothing left for his legislative duties. Perhaps in reading this you have had the idea that it has personal application locally. That is not the case. As a matter of fact The Advance is of the opinion that the less time and attention the present mayor may give to municipal affairs the more fortunate the town and the easier it will be for the municipality to retain honest and efficient officials. Indeed, one local citizen has carried this idea to the length of advocating the provincial party candidature of the mayor so that the town may be left the more free.

The fact remains, however, that the mayor or member of the Legislature who will give the proper attention to municipal or provincial affairs will have no time for any double duty. Either post will tax the efforts of any earnest man. Most public-spirited citizens realize this, and for those whose egotism or ambition or self-seeking would tempt to grasp too much there should be a law to regulate and curb.

VALUE AND JOY OF READING

Recently a number of Ontario newspapers have reproduced a paragraph from L'Echo de Saint-Justin, a bright newspaper published in the small town of St. Justin, Quebec. The paragraph touches on the delights of reading and the value books add not only in the way of knowledge but also in the broadening of the mind.

"When the young people have learned the delights of reading, they will avoid all distractions, all alluring pleasures, to stay alone through an evening beside the library, head buried in a thick volume of history or letters, studying the lives of men and peoples to build up a treasury of experience and to persuade themselves that life must be lived and not wasted." Thus says L'Echo de Saint-Justin.

It is doubtful if reading is recognized to-day at its full value. There are so many other attractions and distractions of modern type that the ancient joy of reading is not enjoyed as fully as it might be. Happy, indeed, the boy or girl who learns to read, in the deeper meaning of the words. That boy or girl has found a means of pleasure and of solace that will grow with the years. There was a time when it may be that the emphasis was placed too much on the knowledge that might be gained from the happy habit of reading. Perhaps this over-emphasis on the idea of information led some of the young people to overlook the genuine joy that may be found in friendship with books. Reading is a form of amusement, of recreation, of entertainment, of occupation, that in these days is available to all. Those who have made friends with books have built themselves impregnable castles peopled with friends and understanding and guarded by all the knowledge of the ages. There are books for every mood, every taste, every time. The friendliness of books is not dependent upon time or tide or weather. Books guide and guard, amuse, inform, entertain. The boy or girl who has won the gift of reading, the habit of reading, the love of reading has justified his or education and discovered a wealth that is inexhaustible and that will never fail.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Threats have been made that the two adopted children of Premier and Mrs. Hepburn will be kidnapped in revenge for the premier's attitude on the C.I.O. Whether leaders of the C.I.O. are in any way responsible for these contemptible threats may be open to question, but there is one thing that is not a question but a fact and that is that any interference with the family of the premier, or any other leader in public life, would rouse such a fury in Ontario that those responsible for the outrage would be swept out of existence and the premier would be swept back into office despite everything. Judgment would not only be passed on the kidnapers but on all the self-seekers who have encouraged that type of action by any political chicanery.

The Globe and Mail seems to be forging ahead, improving every day. Monday's issue had a new improvement. There was a smaller heading on the Walter Winchell column of trivial tripe. There is still room for improvement.

Many comment on the superior service given by the T. & N. O. Railway flyer, "The Northland." There is no doubt of the excellent service given the North by this particular train. There is an additional service, however, that would add much to its value to the communities of the North—and that is the addition of a mail car. Such an addition would mean real service. This is a service that does not lie within the power of the railway to bestow. The T. & N. O., however, might take the question up with the post office department, and it might be possible to add a regular mail car to the other benefits of "The Northland" to the North Land.

A hard-bound Conservative party man was boasting last week that the Conservatives would



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Chicago World's Fair Offers \$500,000 for Quintuplets

Word from Toronto this week says that the Chicago World's Fair offered \$500,000 for the "Joan," as it were, of the Dionne quintuplets. Dr. A. R. Daffoe and the other guardians of the famous five children declined the offer. Dr. Daffoe is quoted as saying:—"They also offered to reproduce in New York everything the quintuplets have up here. The hospital, nursery grounds and everything we have to be an exact replica, however we turned down their offer because in our opinion the welfare of the babies comes first and it has always been the policy of the guardians they belong to Northern Ontario. We turned the offer down, and our decision was final."

Urges Resigning from One Office Ere Seeking Another

(From Toronto Telegram)

Denial comes from the Parliament buildings of any intention on the part of the government to require members of a municipal council to resign before becoming candidates for the legislature. This is regrettable. Such a regulation would have a good effect. A member of a municipal council while campaigning for election as an M.P.P. cannot give the time and attention to his civic duties that would otherwise be possible. If he wishes to contest some office other than that which he holds it is proper course is to resign from the latter and make way for someone else. It is obvious in the case of an alderman who becomes a candidate for a Queen's Park seat that his first desire is not for service in the city council. His desire for advancement is legitimate but it is scarcely fair to anyone, and especially not the electorate, that he continue to hold his city council seat while reaching out for something else which he considers more attractive.

It has been said against a resignation requirement that some of the best members in the legislature have come up from the ranks of municipal councils. That is probably true but it is not an argument in favour of keeping one seat to fall back on if the other is not attained. An M.P.P. who was a former member of a council when elected to the legislature would be just as capable in the House as if he held a city council seat at the time of his election.

Port Arthur News-Chronicle:—The provincial election that is "coming soon" will not be unlike others in many respects. Speeches of the party leaders already indicate that no stone is being left unturned—or something like that—to paint their opponents in colours that are quite unnatural. If politicians were as bad as they are painted by each other the country would have gone to the dogs several generations ago.

have a candidate in every single riding in the province for the coming election. "What about the riding of South Cochrane?" he was asked. What he answered can not be recorded here for obvious reasons.

A provincial constable at Perth, Ontario, writes to The Perth Expositor to object to that newspaper referring to the police as "cops." The cops in Timmins would be very happy if that were the worst term ever applied to them.

Isn't nature wonderful? There is never any more rain falling on the block where the mayor resides than on any other similar block in town. When the oil falls, however, there is more crude oil on the mayor's block than on any two other blocks in the municipality.

Some of his friends are announcing that Councilor W. Wren will be a candidate for mayor at the coming municipal election. It is only sixteen weeks till Santa Claus! Shop early.

Interesting Situation in North Cochrane Riding, Too

South Cochrane has no monopoly of contests for conventions. Word from Kapuskasing is to the effect that there is likely to be a lively contest in North Cochrane at the Liberal convention there on Sept. 7th. The convention is to be held in the town hall at Kapuskasing on Tuesday next, Sept. 7th at 1 p.m. standard time. It is said that J. A. Habel, the present member in the Legislature, will allow his name to go before the convention and that his friends are anxious that he should be a good member, according to the general opinion in his riding, and he is said to have a large following. On the other hand there appears to be a movement in favour of H. D. Angus, of Hearst, as the Liberal candidate. It is understood that efforts are being made to prevail upon Mr. Angus to contest the

convention. He, too, has a large following. In referring to the convention last week The Northern Tribune, of Kapuskasing, says that the rivalry for the convention may make the convention a lively affair. In reference to Mr. Angus, The Northern Tribune says:—"Mr. Angus resided for several years at Cochrane, and is well known among the Liberals of the riding, especially the younger generation. He is now president of the Twentieth Century Liberal Association of Ontario (to which office he was elected at a large convention held in Brantford), and is also vice-president of the Twentieth Century Liberal Association of Canada. It is understood that Mr. Angus feels he has special qualifications to represent this riding, being an enthusiast for the North, and has the acquaintance of many of the prominent Liberals at Toronto and Ottawa, from whom he might reasonably expect the fullest co-operation."

Little Less Speed Would Mean Fewer Accidents

Seventy-two per cent. of all fatalities in Ontario, according to the Department of Highways, occur when the weather is clear and the roads are dry; 70 per cent. of all accidents happen when clear weather conditions prevail, and 66 per cent. when the roads are dry.

The fact that most accidents occur in clear weather and on dry roads may seem surprising at first glance. It will prove less baffling if you remember that speed too fast for conditions is the chief cause of accidents.

Most drivers have learned that they must slow down when weather or road conditions are bad. What they have yet to learn is that a little less speed under all conditions is good driving practice.

Hanover Post:—Premier Aberhart of Alberta is a courageous man. We'd hate to talk to our banker that way.

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- Pictures will be judged on clearness, originality and general effect.
- To assure impartiality out-of-town judges have been appointed. They are Cyril Fuller, general manager of Universal Camera Company; C. H. Bach, Toronto Commercial Photographer, and H. W. E. Pepler, Remison Advertising Company Limited. Their decision will be final.

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There is an election on all right! In the last edition of The Simcoe Reformer there were only four editorial notes. Three of them were about Hon. Mr. Hepburn, and the fourth was about Premier Aberhart of Alberta.

Elections are often compared to horse races. They are also like boxing cards. The winning of the convention is one of the preliminaries.

Posters advertising motion pictures of a fight were displayed on the boarding around the site of the new town hall this week. The pictures are not of the fight the people had to get a new town hall.

Most people think that man Farr will go far in the prize fight line.

In the fight with Louis on Monday night, Farr used his left so much that old-timers naturally called him Lefty Farr.

Modernize Home Under Home Improvement Plan

Many a home-owner who modernized his house with funds obtained under the Dominion Government's Home Improvement Plan does not wish to make any actual structural changes to the property, confines his rehabilitation to the inside of the building and merely refinishing the outer surfaces.

Houses of the Victorian Era are frequently discouraging to the home-owner who has decided to modernize but has not the necessary money to spend on the outside of the structure. Trimming may brand the house as of the "Gingerbread Period."

If it is not possible to have all this type of trimming removed, it may be camouflaged by finishing it in the same colour as the main part of the house rather than the colour of the trim.

Ottawa Journal:—Strikes at Cornwall and Brockville are ending "by agreement," which is the sensible way of doing it. Violence in industrial disputes inevitably reacts against the side practicing it.