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**MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISE PAYS**  
Mayor Shaw, some time ago, suggested the expediency of establishing municipal ice houses, and to the end that the people might be supplied with pure ice at absolute cost. The suggestion was regarded as something of a joke. Yet municipal enterprise is taking on new forms all the while, and in some cities it is a most pronounced success.

In Wisconsin provision has been made for municipal theatres, and Richmond City is preparing its new public building, to run a play house of its own and according to its own ideas of what such a place should be like. Municipal markets are in operation at Hoboken, N.J., Los Angeles, Cal., Newberry, Penn., Antigo, Wis., and other places, and this is the declaration with regard to them: "Lower food costs are to come through lowering distribution costs, and municipal markets simplify the process very much."

In Europe, and in Britain especially, there are not only municipal markets, but bakeries, meat shops, theatres, and railways, and the profits from them go towards the purposes for which taxation is usually raised, and they reduce the rate very materially.

The Cold Feet Committee of the imperial commons is trying to rectify the defects of the chamber so that the heads of the members, and their feet, will not suffer from poor air. Even the ladies from the grills are complaining of poor sanitation.

**MORE TALK OF FAIRS**  
The city cannot hopefully undertake to run a fair, but it can hopefully undertake to co-operate with the county and the county's association in an annual display of the products and resources of the district. The County Fair Association has been conducting its exhibits in Harrowsmith, which, to many, is inaccessible, and can never draw the people outside its immediate neighborhood. It is all very well for some visitor, talking without a sense of responsibility, to reprobate the city and say it should be enterprising, like Toronto, and develop a fair which will grow in favour and attractiveness. This is not Toronto. It can have a summer carnival, which would be more to the purpose, and require only sufficient funds for a programme. But on a fair thousands of dollars must be spent in buildings, and what can be the use of them unless by a very definite agreement the men who are interested in a fair get together and by their united service, and annual grants, make it a success. There is a good deal of force in the suggestion that the land owned by the city be sold, and part of the proceeds devoted to the erection of new buildings outside of the city. The show might as well be in Harrowsmith, however, so far as convenience is concerned, and the support of those who can be brought to the city by train and boat will be missed.

Commissioner Chisholm, of Toronto, figures that he can buy and sell coal at a dollar a ton less than it is available from the dealers. The city might be tempted to let him show what he can do, but for the remembrance of what happened when a similar experiment was tried some years ago—at a loss of \$40,000.

**TWO NEW OFFICIALS**  
The Board of Health, influenced by the reports of the medical health officer, and evidence of the dangers to health by impure food and defective sanitation, has recommended the appointment of two new officials—a san-

tary inspector and a plumbing inspector.

The plan is to transfer Mr. Timmerman from the police department to the department of health, and it will be a good change for the city and the man. Sanitary measures cannot be promoted by periodical service. Once a year there is an inspection of the city, and a partial cleaning up. This year it is hoped there will be a complete cleaning, under the direction of all the public bodies, and within a brief and specified time. But the removal of dirt, in the spring, is not the only duty devolving on the Board of Health.

It is supposed to be always on duty, alert, active, aggressive, and it cannot be efficient in the enforcement of local laws without the help of one who is daily in action and determined to do his part.

In a similar way there must be a plumbing inspector if the Joneses of the people are to be free from the poisons which escape from defective pipes and sewers. There is a plumbing by-law, but it is practically dead letter when the city engineer, one of the busiest men in the city, is expected to leave his office and more important work, in order to see what the plumbers are doing.

The Council may hesitate about the plumbing inspector, on the ground of expense, but it cannot defer safely the appointment of a sanitary inspector. The revelation in connection with the milk supply has aroused the people, and they will demand protection.

Leeds, England, is going to try civic government by commission. The movement is spreading. Perhaps a little later the Ontario government may, by special act, permit the towns and cities of the province to try this form of government.

#### HUNTERS OF THE BIRDS

Last year the United States congress passed an Act which was designed to save the birds, to put an end summarily to their unseemly slaughter. This law forbade the importation of the plumage of wild birds save for protective purposes. Similar action was taken by India and Australia. It is not at all surprising, then, to learn that the mother of nations, Great Britain, has under review legislation which will spare the birds, and prevent some of the species from extermination.

Best of all, and giving strength to the bill, is the support which is given to the measure by some of the strongest men in public life—Mr. Asquith, Sir Edward Grey, Lord Curzon, Lord Curzon, Sir Conan Doyle, Mr. Blunt and others. So popular is the Plumage Bill, and so strong the movement in its support, that in the first division in the commons it was carried by 297 votes to 15. There was practically unanimity of opinion upon the subject.

Those who opposed it contended that the prohibition of it would not destroy the trade. Well, it will restrain what has been called an adious and silly traffic, one amounting in Britain to £120,000, and affecting only 900 persons. It will certainly close up a market in London in which last year the plumage of 115,000 egrets, 22,000 pigeons, 85,000 humming birds, and 162,000 kingfishers, (to say nothing of other birds in all their varieties), were disposed of at public auction. And this to satisfy the greed of some men and the vanity of some women.

Wilfrid Blunt, a lover of birds, puts the case clearly when he says that quite truly not all the skill of all the chemists in Europe could recreate a single species in its existing beauty once it was exterminated. But alas! destruction is terribly easy.

**EDITORIAL NOTES**  
All is still quiet in Belfast. Better counsels should prevail. The politicians should be able to see now, if they did not before, the dangers of appealing to religious passions of the masses for political effects.

Austin Chamberlain is weary of the one dish at successive elections, "the Irish stew." There is only one way of getting rid of it, namely, to pass Home Rule. Then the Irish people will keep the stew to themselves.

The farm helpers in England have gone on strike. They demand shorter hours and a half holiday a week. And they will get what they demand. Farmer employers will discover that the farm hands must hereafter be

An early election in Britain is proposed—but when the Parliament Act has given effect to the legislation the odds have not treated on its merits. Home Rule has been endorsed in all the bye-elections and will probably be endorsed in a general election.

The deportation of undesirables averages 250 a month, and undesirable because they are sick, insane or criminal persons. The Whig again raises the question: Why cannot these people be detected when they present themselves for immigration and deportation seem to be wholly unnecessary.

The Montreal papers are in favour of the Georgian Bay canal, because

its terminus will be in Montreal. But it will be many years before it can be built, and there is a grave question whether it can be of a service warranting the expenditure of between two and three hundred thousand dollars. The Welland canal has proved its value and usefulness. There is nothing experimental about it.

The telephone experts have been called upon to install a service at the British House of Commons which will automatically call the attention of the whips to the disappearance of any member on whom they are keeping tab. The contrivance is said to be one of the marvels of the age. The member of parliament has now no hope of escape from the toils of the whips.

#### PUBLIC OPINION

**Too Fussy**  
Ottawa Journal.

Alberta objects to the abbreviation Alta. Now, if we humor them, along'll come Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island. Go Alberta, you're too fussy.

**Bribing the Women**  
Ottawa Free Press.

In Chicago, at political meetings, they are giving women bottles of scent, instead of the customary campaign cigars. Doesn't the taking and giving of "scents" constitute bribery and corruption?

**Purity of Our Food**  
Montreal Star.

It is just as important as it ever is to make sure that your food is clean. Death lurks in dirt just as surely as it ever did—in fact, we are much surer of this grim fact than we ever were before.

**A Little Mexico**  
Montreal Herald.

Hon. Robert Rogers told parliament last night that there was neither law nor justice in the province of Saskatchewan. Surely he must have had the Macdonald constituency in mind, and have meant Manitoba.

#### All in Place

Montreal Gazette.

An Ontario newspaper seems surprised at the fact that Catholics and Protestants sat at the same board at the St. Patrick's day dinner this year in Montreal. In this part of the world people do not hate and avoid each other just because they hold different religious views. Why should they?

**In Canada's Golden Age**  
Manitoba Free Press.

When the perplexities which beset Mr. Borden's path at Ottawa and the problems which demand solution are considered, it looks as though Sir Wilfrid's luck did not desert him when he was defeated in September, 1911. His premiership was the golden age of Canadian development and prosperity, with scarcely a cloud in the sky; and, if the truth were known, he is probably well pleased to be where he is, now that a very different state of affairs exists.

**In the Little Mexico**  
Montreal Herald.

Mrs. Newley—Oh, Fred, you've broken our best bread plate.

Mr. Newley—Awfully sorry, dear, but I accidentally dropped one of your biscuits on it.

#### Responsiveness.

A man is fond of the responsive woman.

The woman who understands.

The smiling face, the eyes of fearless truth.

The eager clasp of gentle hands.

A man is fond of the natural woman.

Warm in nature's loveliness.

Tender in heart and gentle in speech.

Low-voiced in tones of soft caress.

A man is fond of the silent woman.

That silence which leaves much unsaid.

Loyal and true, in tolerance and strength.

A royal bough to him unread.

**Wise Sayings of Marcus Aurelius.**

Whatever may befall thee, it was preordained from everlasting.

Mark how fleeting and paltry is the estate of man—yesterday in embryo, to-morrow a mummy or ashes. So for the hair-breadth of time assigned to thee live rationally, and part with life cheerfully, as drops the ripe olive, telling the season that bore it and the tree that matured it.

All that happens is as usual and familiar as the rose in spring and the crop in summer.

As for life, it is a battle and a sojourn in a strange land; but the truth that comes after is oblivious.

Nothing has such power to broaden the mind as the ability to investigate systematically and truly all that comes under the observation in life.

Though thou be destined to live three thousand years and as many myriads, besides, yet remember that no man loseth other life than that which he liveth, nor liveth other than that which he loseth.

**Kingston Events**  
25 YEARS AGO.

A car of cotton, 150 bales, left the city for China to-day.

John Carson has accepted the challenge of P. McLaughlin for a race and \$200.

Twenty-five farmers from the Kingston district left to-day for the north-west.

**TUESDAY, MARCH TWENTY-FOURTH**

The Hon. L. O. David, Montreal's city clerk, who is also a member of the Dominion Senate, was born seventy-five years ago to-day at Sault-au-Recollet. This interesting little French-Canadian has at least three titles to fame. First of all he is perhaps the most intimate friend of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and, if he survives his distinguished fellow countryman, will be his biographer. Next he was the originator of the feast of St. John the Baptist in Montreal, one of the great events in the life of the Church. Lastly he has written a long list of books dealing with the history of Lower Canada and is one of the most ardent French-Canadians of the day. He has been city clerk of Montreal for over twenty years and a member of the Senate for eleven years.

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