

But shall the municipality have nothing at all, except the ordinary tax rate, for making the Ideal Chicago?

Any one who thinks so need read no further. For what we propose is that the cost of making the Ideal Chicago, the plans for which the Commercial Club has launched, shall be paid for with a share—not the whole, but a share—of the increased value which may reasonably be estimated to have been given to the land area of Chicago by the realization of the Commercial Club's plans.

Observe that we do not propose taking for this purpose the whole increase. Neither do we propose taking any more of the ordinary increase than ordinary taxes. All we propose is that a good share of so much of the increase as may reasonably be attributed to the idealization of the city shall be devoted to the cost thereof.

If any one sees any unfairness in that proposition—except unfairness to the city—we shall be glad to hear from him with his reasons.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

PREFERENTIAL VOTING IN THE UNITED STATES.

Grand Junction, Colo., Nov. 3.

The Grand Junction system of voting was on trial on November 2d, and the test proved it to be the most democratic method of electing officials ever adopted. All of the five commissioners elected are strong men, among the best of the city, and all were indorsed and supported by the friends of the charter.

It took the third choice to elect the Mayor; the second choice to elect the Commissioner of Highways; the second choice to elect the Commissioner of Health and Civic Beauty; and the other two commissioners were each elected on the first choice.

The total number of votes cast in the election was 1,848, and 925 constituted a majority.

+

Of the six candidates for Mayor, neither of the two receiving the largest number of first choice votes was elected.

Under the old system, Mr. Bannister, who received the largest number of first choice votes, would have been elected, although three other candidates had more electors behind them than he had. He had a total on all choices of only 737, while one of them had 753, another 912 and the third 1,051. Under the Berkeley and Colorado Springs plans of second elections, the two candidates, Aupperle and Bannister, who received the largest number of first choice votes, would now be pitted against each other in a bitterly contested second election, although neither of them had behind him a majority of the people of Grand Junction—the former having of all choices

753 and the latter 737, whereas a majority of the votes cast was 925.

Mr. Todd, who was elected on third choice, had no large faction for him and no faction whatever against him; but he had behind him, as shown by the results of the ballot, an aggregate of 1,051 first, second and third choice votes, or 126 more than an absolute majority of the voters of Grand Junction. He is clearly the actual choice of the people of this city by the majority test.

Mr. Todd is a friend of the charter, and the only candidate for Mayor who was a member of the charter convention which drafted it. He was supported by the anti-saloon people. A fundamental democrat in principle, he is by party allegiance a Socialist.

+

Of the five candidates for Commissioner of Highways, Mr. Scoville received an absolute majority on second choice, and was consequently thereby elected. He also received the largest number of votes on each choice. Mr. Rader was the only candidate who received a majority vote on the aggregate of all three choices and yet was not elected; but he fell short of a majority on first and second choices, and even on all three his majority was less than Mr. Scoville's.

Mr. Vorbeck, the candidate for Commissioner of Finance and Supplies, was the only candidate elected and by less than a majority of all the votes cast. As there were only two candidates for this office, and his adversary was lowest on first choice, the adversary was dropped out, thereby leaving the office to Mr. Vorbeck.

Mr. Holmburg, candidate for Commissioner of Health and Civic Beauty, received a majority vote on first and second choices and was elected,—he having also the largest number of votes on all choices.

Mr. Vedder, the Commissioner of Water and Sewers, was the only candidate for that office, and was elected by a very large majority on first choice vote.

+

The general result of this election is to demonstrate beyond peradventure the superiority of the Grand Junction system of voting. By no other method could the real will of a majority of the people of this city have been realized. Any voting system which has been adopted by any of the other charter cities would have resulted in a defeat of the will of the people of Grand Junction as shown by an investigation of the ballots cast at this election.

It has been strenuously charged that this system would not abolish politics, nor political machines. The opposite has been proven. Of the five commissioners elected, two are Democrats, two are Republicans, and one is a Socialist. This nominally partisan result, however, was purely accidental and incidental. No sign of any of these parties entered into the campaign, or appeared on the ballot. The contest turned upon local and personal questions only.

Prior to the entrance of the charter question into the first campaign, all the political parties were preparing to nominate tickets on national party lines, and the charter-plan question squelched that action even after primaries and conventions had been called.

The people of this city do not yet fully realize how thoroughly they are in absolute political control of our city affairs, or that hereafter our local government will be just what they want. Our charter, like Aladdin's lamp, will bring to the public any wish a majority of the people may make. Let us wish for large things—the wisest, most just, and best city government in the world.

JAMES W. BUCKLIN.

+ + +

CANADIAN PROGRESS.

Calgary, Alberta, November 2.

Calgary is said to have about 30,000 inhabitants. The municipality owns a lighting plant, but there is also a private electric company. The private company furnishes light so cheaply that many patronize it to the exclusion of the municipal plant, but recognize that it is the publicly owned system that causes the private concern to be agreeable in the matter of rates and other matters necessary to good service.

The telephone system is a government affair and rates are \$35.00 per year for unlimited business service, while family service is at the rate of \$20.00 per year. In the Arlington hotel guests use the house 'phone without charge, and it seems to be customary for neighbors to step in for like free accommodation.

The city has just got into good running order with its publicly owned and operated street car service, and, although they had a bit of trouble because of unskilled employes, the concern paid well from the beginning. Fare is five cents, with six for a quarter tickets known as business men's tickets, and eight for a quarter tickets known as working men's tickets, good morning and evening.

The mayor and the aldermen came in a body to listen to my Direct Legislation lecture, and the Mayor requested that the following evening be devoted to a discussion of the single tax, for which a larger hall was engaged.

Practically all of the more thoughtful men of the city are more or less outspoken in favor of changes in the public establishment intended to promote the cause of democratic government. They were eager to learn of results where the commission form of city government has been tried, and are intent on something of the sort for themselves. The suggestion that they secure copies of the charters of Des Moines, Berkeley and Grand Junction was acted upon at once.

Taxes are more or less chaotic here as elsewhere, but there is a tendency to recognize the principle of the single tax. Improvements on farms are not taxed. People generally do not appear to know just what this means, but they realize that it works well. In the cities, however, business is licensed to a great extent. In some places personalty taxes are levied, and in other places merchants are taxed according to either area or value of floor space occupied. All these taxes are of course essentially the same thing—burdens upon industry. Many persons are sufficiently observant to note that farmers are free from legal interference, while the business man is annoyed at every turn. At the time of the business depression in Canada, which they seem in-

clined to charge to the United States (in that it followed depression there) as a sort of sympathetic reaction, many business men had considerable stocks and have been compelled, so they tell me, to pay taxes more than once on the same goods. The people here are slowly reaching the conclusion that taxing improvements in the cities is as injurious as was the now abolished tax on farm improvements.

Direct taxation and direct legislation are more popular in Western Canada than are any other suggested changes—unless possibly some more or less indefinitely formed notion relative to regulation of the liquor traffic.

JOHN Z. WHITE.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, November 9, 1909.

Mayor Johnson's Defeat.

Full particulars of the municipal election in Cleveland on the 2nd (p. 1063), at which Mayor Johnson was defeated as candidate for a fifth consecutive term as Mayor, show that a heavy vote was cast and that Herman Baehr, the Republican candidate and Mayor Johnson's chief adversary, was elected by a plurality of 3,733 in a total of 80,409. Baehr (Republican) received 41,442; Willert (Socialist) 1,258; Johnson (Democrat) 37,709. The next City Council will stand 7 Democrats to 25 Republicans. It is understood that Harris R. Cooley, the appointive head of the department which includes charities and corrections, in which he has made a high national reputation for "heart and gumption," will be displaced. All the elective candidates with Mayor Johnson were defeated except Newton D. Baker, who was re-elected by a plurality of 1,425. On the board of appraisers for the quadrennial appraisal of real estate for taxation four Democrats and one Republican were elected. The Republican is Theodore M. Bates; the Democrats are Joseph F. McKenna, John A. Zangerle, Arthur F. May and Fred C. Howe. The last three are accused of being single tax men and all four were Johnson candidates.

+

Since the election Mayor Johnson is reported to have said:

"It looks as though I were beaten. I will be a candidate for Mayor at the election two years from to-day."—Cleveland dispatch of Nov. 2 in Chicago Record-Herald of Nov. 3d.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Johnson," one employe said, as