

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.

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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.

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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