

MR. VOTER! A Moment Please

In the following paragraph we call your attention to some of the reasons why you should help send James Simpson to the Toronto Board of Control for the year 1917:

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS MOST IMPORTANT.

To the Electors of Toronto:—

The Municipal Elections are approaching and you will be asked to elect representatives to the City Council to attend to city business. As the decisions of Council have a very important effect upon the lives of the citizens, it is important that civic questions should be considered from a proper viewpoint. The purpose of the Social Democratic Party in placing candidates in the field from year to year is with the view of placing their program before the electors and permitting them to endorse or reject their proposals. As the Social Democratic Party is a party standing for the interests of the producers of wealth and in the interests of those who have a part in the necessary distribution of the necessities of life, they seek to represent the point of view of those who engage in useful and necessary industry.

In the administration of city affairs there are questions arise which affect all citizens, whether useful in productive or distributive industry or not, but there are other questions which clearly define the interests of two classes in the community. One class is neither industrious nor useful, but the other class is both industrious and useful. In effecting economies it is therefore important that the economies should not be made to the detriment of those who make our city a fit place to live in by their useful industry, but should be made in those systems of civic administration which have been long established and looked upon as necessary to good government. These are the methods of carrying on all our civic works, taxing our city properties, borrowing our money, and issuing our debentures. There are other expenditures, including the payment of wages and salaries, protecting the city's health, cleaning the streets and carrying away the refuse and garbage. These latter expenditures are essential to the well-being of every man,

woman and child, and cannot be regarded as affording an opportunity for curtailment, if through that curtailment the best interests of our citizens are going to be jeopardized.

HOW CITY REVENUES ARE SPENT.

At the present time every dollar of city revenue goes for the following services: Education, 29.9 cents; General Government, 19.3 cents; Protection, 17.3 cents; Health, 12.0 cents; Charities and Correction, 5.4 cents; Highways, 5.1 cents; War Tax, 4.4 cents; Public Service Enterprises, 3.4 cents; Recreation, 3.1 cents. A careful study of these services will suggest the conclusion that few can permit very important reductions, but in those which can permit these reductions there is need for close investigation and a thorough application of efficient business principles. The opportunity for real service is found in a careful study of our methods of raising revenue, and in this particular much improvement can be made. The present policy of placing the maximum burden upon those who are the useful and industrious citizens is but a relic of the past, and the necessity of the present is to tax all forms of wealth accumulation which are not established as a result of individual service and industry.

WHERE TORONTO STANDS ECONOMICALLY.

The bonded debt of Toronto, including borrowings for work finished and work authorized, amounts to approximately \$102,000,000, and of this amount many millions cover the expenditures for local improvements which are financed temporarily by borrowings from the local banks at high rates of interest. Even the current expenditures during the early part of the year have to be met from the borrowings from our banking institutions. Through the plans suggested by the city's Finance Commissioner the extra cost of these borrowings can be reduced from \$250,000 a year to about \$100,000 a year. This will involve the preparation of estimates earlier in the year and the collection of taxes earlier in the year. This affords a splendid illustration of effecting a real civic economy without jeopardizing any essential civic service or reducing any salary or wage which at the present time may only gratify the desire to exist.

THE PROBLEM OF JUST TAXATION.

On the other hand there are conditions created in Toronto which are the result of the hard work and strenuous endeavor of the great majority of its population, but through the advantages of wealth accumulation these conditions can be taken advantage of to suddenly enrich those who are so favored, without the equivalent in labor being expended to accumulate that wealth. This is particularly the fact with reference to the investment in, and sale of, land. Without forcing any physical suffering upon

those who are so enriched the city should seek the necessary legislation to augment its revenues by taxing the unearned increment which is derived from such a source. It is a well-known fact that in connection with the Harbor Improvement the Chief Engineer has successfully tendered against private contractors, and by so doing has saved thousands of dollars of the citizens' money. If this can be done in connection with the harbor work it is quite possible that through the extension of the same principle other important economies can be effected to reduce unnecessary expenditures.

THE QUESTION OF "ECONOMY."

Developing this idea of civic administration further, it is only in this way that any sincere and honest candidate can appeal to the electors on a platform of "Civic Efficiency and Economy." The suggestion that has been made by one citizen, that thousands of dollars can be saved by the reduction of salaries and wages in the civic service, is neither practical nor justifiable. With the exception of a few salaries in the civic service, there is no room for reductions if we desire the comfort of the people to live in decent and wholesome surroundings and enjoy in a fair measure the advantages of our modern civilization. When we deal with the few large salaries paid civic officials we are faced with the fact that so long as private corporations are anxious to engage these officials at much larger salaries than the city offers it will be impossible to talk of reducing even these salaries if we are going to have capable and efficient heads of departments. It has long been regarded as a fact that the salaries of many civic officials are not paid as the equivalent for the services rendered, but are determined by the private companies and corporations who offer large salaries to get the benefit of their experience.

If the electors of the city are anxious to secure men on the Board of Control who view civic administration from this standpoint, then we suggest that a vote should be cast for Ex-Controller James Simpson, who believes in the administration of civic affairs with a proper regard for the proper development of all the citizens. He regards it as fundamental to civic progress that the workers should be the first and only consideration, and that those who do not take part in productive and necessary industry should not share unfairly in the fruits of industry.

A PARTIAL REVIEW OF OUR CANDIDATE'S RECORD.

Some of the questions successfully grappled with by Ex-Controller Simpson are: The establishment of a system of medical examination in the Public Schools, elimination of home work for the younger pupils in the schools, payment of better salaries to teachers and other employees of the Board of Education, frugal use of schools as civic centres, improved system of technical education

to develop the scientific knowledge and the intelligence of the workers in dealing with materials, establishment of minimum rates of wages in civic departments to improve the standards of living, obtaining of legislation giving the city power to purchase land and build workmen's homes, purchasing of coal for city buildings from the mines instead of the middlemen, placing the accounting system of the city on the unit basis, so that each department could give an account of receipts and expenditures. These measures and others which have not been mentioned have all been in the interests of the useful industrious citizens and have been passed for the purpose of establishing improved conditions of life in the city.

If you are satisfied with work of this character, then cast your ballot for Ex-Controller Simpson, as a means of continuing this policy.

