

reputation which too frequently accompanies its political offices and the people themselves exhibit no desire to strive for a betterment of its conditions.

The latter represents a situation which too frequently obtains in towns where sectional jealousies have become acute and there is pulling and hauling between them. Such a condition reflects upon every citizen of that town. Its growth and progress is materially retarded.

Its rate of taxation is usually high and the quality of service rendered its citizens poor and unsatisfactory. Manufacturers seeking locations for plants are not attracted to it and its substantial citizens are inclined to seize the first opportunity to move to a town where improved conditions prevail. Every citizen and taxpayer has a right to expect reasonably good service for the money paid into the town treasury toward its expenses.

If those funds are frittered away through graft and patronage for personal gain and the higher ideals of the town's improvement and progress lost sight of, the taxpayer does not receive the service for which he has paid his money and is entitled to, and he naturally becomes dissatisfied.

In other words, the atmosphere surrounding such a town is bad. Its citizens become imbued with it and its average of finished product is of a lower order than it should be.

The question of how the government of our cities and towns can be improved and put upon a more sound and satisfactory basis, that the citizens shall receive the service they pay for, is one of the greatest problems of the present day.

The old system is accompanied by much waste and extravagance and has plunged many communities heavily in debt.

Will the new method of Town Manager form of government overcome all of that and if so, in what way?

As in business, it is imperative that confidence

and a spirit of cooperation should exist between employer and employee, so it is necessary, in order to make progress in any community, that there should be earnest cooperation between not only the officers of a town, but between them and its citizens.

As ours is a government of, by and for the people, each member of a community is really a stockholder, as it were, in the business of that community and should have a personal interest in its progress and improvement.

If men are seeking position because of the honor conferred and are not men who have had a broad experience, both by travel over the country,

visiting large and small cities and studying the methods of government or management, but have remained at home in the narrow confines of their locality, they are not apt to have the breadth of vision to formulate plans and take the initiative in a way which will cause the town to expand and bring to the community those ideas which have been found most satisfactory in the best conducted cities of the country.

While our government is one in which all of the people are practically stockholders, it is self-evident that if the responsibility of the work of the town is to be conducted by different heads without coordina-

tion and without being placed under the control of one general manager, there is apt to be friction and a lack of cooperation, together with the growth of a political prestige of pull, which too often results in the town being run more for its officers and their personal ambitions than for those high ideals for which a community should strive and which are lost sight of. Little public spirit, if any, prevails and the product of that town is a negligible factor.

On the contrary, where the community recognizes the responsibility of ownership and representation, and men of experience whether in the



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