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Man cuts off his nose to spite his face and then tries to make himself believe he has improved his appearance.

DR. HORACE L. BRITTAIN, FORMERLY OF THIS CITY, ON FUNDAMENTALS & HISTORY OF MUNICIPAL GOVERN'T

Speaker Now Director of Bureau of Municipal Research at Toronto—St. John the Oldest Chartered City of Canada, Dating from 1784—Larger Cities Chartered Much Later—Interesting Definitions of Many Terms Used in Municipal Government.

Dr. H. L. Brittain in an address delivered at McGill University, Montreal, on November 4, traced the history of municipal government and laid down certain fundamentals that cannot help but be helpful to our readers. Space will not allow for the full text of the address but the following synopsis indicates the ideas expounded by Dr. Brittain.

After explaining that Municipality—the Latin word from which municipal is derived—is made up of two

words: "Munis"—a duty or service or privilege; and "Capere"—to take, Dr. Brittain went on to say that the original meaning of "municipium" was evidently a community upon which had been imposed certain duties or services not a community to which had been granted certain privileges. After the Lex Julia of 90 B. C., the municipia were granted full rights of home rule, with the exception that the legal officers remained subordinate to the legal

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As the Empire came to be established the Emperor began to use the municipia to further his own ends, with the result that people began to lose interest in their own affairs and it became increasingly difficult to get candidates for public office. In many of the municipia industry became highly organized. The organizations then formed were the forerunners of the Guilds of the Middle Ages. Their Unions were not Trade Unions, but rather Industrial Unions.

English and Colonial

The development of the English municipalities is sufficiently well known in broad terms, to make it unnecessary to go into details here, particularly as our Canadian system has been perhaps more directly affected by American practice, which was at first practically the same as the English practice at the same period. The first American City Charter was that of New York granted by Governor Douglass in 1686. The New England colonies did not need charters for cities or boroughs as they had all the privileges needed under their town form of Government. The charters granted to 20 or 30 boroughs and cities previous to the Revolution, followed no single model, but, in general, conformed to the English tradition, the governing body being styled "the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty"—the single Council being made up of the Mayor, a small number of Aldermen and a larger number of Councilmen. The Mayor was usually named by the Governor of the Colony.

Three of the boroughs were close corporations. After 1776, the close corporation idea was given up to a great extent. In the Philadelphia Charter of 1789, 15 aldermen were selected by the freeholders, 30 councilors by the free men and the Mayor was chosen by the aldermen.

After 1825—as shown by the new charter of the City of New York in 1830—the principal of the Federation government was still further developed in municipal administration and the direct administration of the public services came to be entrusted to administrative officials appointed for the purpose by Council. The same period saw the widening of the basis of municipal suffrage. The period from 1860 to 1890 was marked by the development of the spoils system.

Oldest in Canada

The oldest incorporated Canadian city is St. John, N. B., whose charter dates from 1784. Quebec and Montreal much older and more important settlements, were incorporated in 1832. Toronto was incorporated in 1834.

After describing the meaning of Commission Government, Commission Manager or City Manager Government Dr. Brittain took up the Fundamentals of Municipal Government as follows:

"In essentials the problems of all forms of municipalities are the same, but, in practice conditions are so widely different that the forms of government must vary widely.

What is a city?—A collection of human beings? A collection of houses? A collection of homes?

A city is a large group of human beings, in homes organized to carry on collectively certain undertakings of community value.

What is a citizen?—One who lives in a city? One who votes? One who pays

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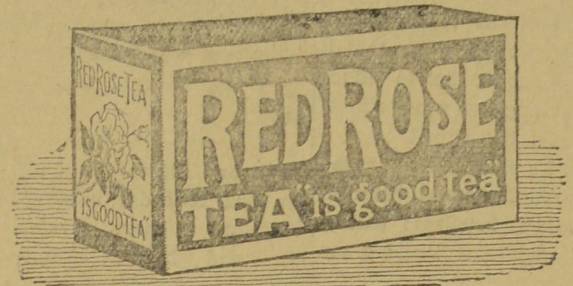
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