

treasury. The organs of the Church are: an elective Consistory of nine pastors and thirty-one laymen; the Company of Pastors, formed of the pastors in charge; and the Parish Councils, elected by the twenty-four parishes. Every graduate in divinity of good repute may obtain his admission as an "auxiliary pastor," which, without allowing him any stipend, confers on him the right of acting as a pastor. When a post becomes vacant, the new pastor is chosen by the electors of the parish among the graduates in divinity recognized as eligible. This is the Congregational principle; but it does not hold everywhere. For instance, the expenses of the Church are supported by a central fund, to which all are invited to contribute. But if any one should neglect his duty, he would not be for this reason erased from the list of the Church members. All the ecclesiastical buildings, including the historical cathedral of Saint Peter's, where Calvin's voice seems still to resound, are soon to become the property of the Consistory. Never was the passage from one ecclesiastical régime to another accomplished with fewer shocks than in the case of the merging of the old Protestant cults of "Protestant Rome" into a new and liberal communion.



MUNICIPAL REFORM IN MONTREAL

The recent municipal elections in Montreal formed a satisfactory conclusion to a most deplorable story of civic corruption. The revelation of the extent to which wrong-doing had prevailed arose out of a proposal by a committee of the City Council to award a million dollars' worth of paving contracts to a firm which had not put in the lowest tender. Public suspicion having been thereby aroused, a Citizens' Committee was formed to inquire into the case. As an outcome of this action a Royal Commission was appointed to make a formal investigation, and the Citizens' Committee engaged counsel to assist the Commission. The evidence thus brought out showed not only that paving contractors were being called upon to pay sixty cents per yard into a corruption fund, but that positions on the police force and fire brigade were being trafficked in as well by men in control of the City Council. In the

face of all this the committee in charge of the city works persisted in going on with the awarding of the paving contract until restrained from taking further action by injunction. Several of the members had the audacity even to go before the electors for re-election in the late municipal elections, but of the twenty-three implicated in the exposures only one was returned. The defeat of the corruptionists and the election of better men affords one more proof of the extent to which the civic conscience is gaining strength all over America.



WAR ON THE PEOPLE

Not employer or employee, but the patient, long-enduring public—foolishly patient and weakly enduring public—is the real sufferer in such riots as those which last week disgraced the city named in honor of brotherly love. Street cars burned, innocent bystanders shot, men and women clubbed, fusillades of missiles from windows with answering volleys of pistol-shots—all these things are the physical outcropping of industrial mediævalism. The street car corporations have rights, the striking employees have rights—under the present system of not-dealing with labor disputes both parties have too many rights. But above these legal rights of stopping work and of refusing to treat with unions stands the higher right of the people of Philadelphia to peace, safety, and order. We do not care for the present purpose whether this labor war was provoked or unprovoked, whether the companies or the men are most to blame; ultimately the fault lies with the community at large, because it has provided no reasonable way of dealing with such a situation, despite the fact that it is perfectly obvious that under the existing law conditions of lawlessness and violence may arise at any moment.

It is true that Philadelphia is no worse in this matter than many other cities, although political vote-buying and partisan bargaining with unions and corporations have there induced a peculiarly corrupt condition. On the other hand, all cities which have failed to note that some countries have taken steps to make such strikes difficult or impossible are to blame

for their civic backwardness. In another place in this number of *The Outlook* an interesting account is given by Mr. Paul Kennaday of New Zealand's radical law for compulsory arbitration, which, if it has not literally abolished strikes, has at least in large measure stopped senseless labor warfare. Repeatedly *The Outlook* has described Canada's Board of Conciliation, under which it is a punishable offense against the law to declare either a strike or lockout without prior investigation by the Board. A few weeks ago Mr. Walter G. Merritt in *The Outlook* pointed out that strikes on public utilities in their effect on the public were disastrous and dangerous, and suggested that the Inter-State Commerce Commission and the Public Service Commissions of the States receive power to do as part of an ordered system what was done as an informal expedient and to avert public disaster by Mr. Roosevelt's Anthracite Commission. How or by whom the work is to be done is an open question. The trouble is that we—that is, municipalities, legislatures, and Congress—sit supinely by and do nothing.

Every reasoning man knows what will follow in any large American city if suddenly street car motormen and conductors go on strike and the companies send out part of their cars manned by strike-breakers or even by old employees who refuse to join their fellows. Crowds gather, a rabble collects, made up of men and boys, some strikers—more, probably, of the rowdy and reckless hoodlums found in the worst districts. From hooting and rough horse-play the advance to stone-throwing and brutal beating is quick. Then come police clubbing and shooting, and quickly the city is in a state of semi-anarchy, and savagery is seen to be as surely the result of mob excitement as it was in the days of the French Terror. It is a public duty to put down rioting; but it would be wise to forestall it by making the exciting cause impossible. The law should forbid strikes of public utility employees in a body and without notice, because such strikes are an incentive to crime and an outrage against public safety and comfort. But if it does this, it must, as a matter of plain justice, provide a fair and reasonable way in which the claims of the employees acting together may be heard

and the right or wrong determined. Conciliation and compromise must supersede brickbats and pistol-shots—and this not only for the benefit of workingmen and business men, but in order that such civic chaos as that in Philadelphia may become impossible under the sway of industrial democracy.



THE PRESENT DUTY

This week President Taft begins the second year of his Administration. One-fourth of the term for which he was elected has passed. During these twelve months his optimism has been severely tested. Entering his office supported with an extraordinary degree of popular confidence, he has had to do his work under the depressing influence of diminishing enthusiasm. Though trained, as lawyer and judge, to keep his mind on the task before him without hesitating because of popular opinion, and though still further inured to hostile popular views by his experience in carrying out the Philippine policy in spite of the earlier ignorant opposition of Filipinos and the continued selfish opposition of American special interests, he has not been oblivious of the growing volume of criticism during these latter weeks. Speaking impromptu, with that engaging frankness that wins for him the good will even of those who most emphatically oppose him, he is reported to have said in a speech at Newark, New Jersey, last week, in reference to the words used by ex-Governor Murphy in introducing him: "It is true I told him I wanted to make good a year ago. I am not so certain now of having done it. He said something about the newspapers. When the newspapers are prone to criticise, and sometimes unite in hammering your Administration, treating it sometimes with contemptuous disdain and sometimes with patronizing friendship, it is hard to overcome the feeling that perhaps you ought to begin all over again."

What the President refers to is really more deep-seated than merely newspaper criticism; it is a feeling widespread among the people. Unquestionably public opinion over a large part of the country is growing more and more critical and impatient. And the object of the criticism, the cause