

Citizen Control of the Citizen's Business

TORONTO'S CITIZENS CAN CONTROL TORONTO'S AFFAIRS ONLY THROUGH FREQUENT, PROMPT, ACCURATE AND PERTINENT INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO TORONTO'S BUSINESS.

ISSUED BY THE

189 CHURCH STREET



TELEPHONE: MAIN 3620

White Paper No. 89

June 23rd, 1925

SECOND OPEN LETTER TO THE Citizens and Taxpayers of Toronto

*Re the danger of patronage
in the civic service*

ISSUED JUNE 17TH, 1925

Printed and distributed for the information
of Bureau subscribers.

OPEN LETTER

Since our letter to you of April 3rd, 1925, another disquieting incident has happened which would seem to give further evidence that a determined effort is being made in some quarters to introduce patronage into the civic service. This cannot by any stretch of the imagination be considered in the interests of the citizens and taxpayers. The welfare of the greatest number demands that no appointment or promotion in the public service shall be made on any other ground than the good of the service, that the method of filling vacancies in departments on the nomination of the responsible heads of departments be continued in full force, and that no steps shall be taken to weaken the morale of the civic service by using it to further the aims of individuals or special interests.

The incident referred to is the following:

The Property Commissioner recommended the filling of two vacancies—the positions of Superintendent and Matron of the detention home—by the appointment of a man and his wife, giving his reasons therefore, including the qualifications and experience of both.

The Board of Control sent on the communication to Council but substituted the names of another man and his wife without stating qualifications or experience. To the credit of Council the report of the Board was referred back. It is to be hoped, in the interests of efficiency and economy, that the Board of Control will reconsider its action.

It is recent incidents like the foregoing, which evidence a strong tendency to depart from business principles in conducting civic business, which has compelled the Bureau to take a stand against any city pension scheme until there has been a thorough survey of the civic service. The results of a patronage system, coupled with a pension scheme, can better be imagined than described.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN MACDONALD,
President.

HORACE L. BRITAIN,
Director.

The Bureau of Municipal Research is an independent, non-partisan organization, supported entirely by voluntary contributions. Its aims are:

1. To develop interest in public affairs.
2. To promote efficiency in public administration.

In carrying out these aims it uses the following method:

1. It makes inquiries as to the facts of municipal government.
2. It analyses and interprets these facts.
3. It publishes the facts in concise form.

The Bureau does not interest itself in the selection or support of candidates for civic honors, or in the appointment of particular individuals to the civic employ. It is interested solely in the promotion of the best civic interests of the men, women and children of Toronto.