# DIGGING UP MUNICIPAL FACTS

## *RESEARCH BUREAU HAS ONLY MADE A START SO FAR.*

**It Has a Comprehensive Programme, Which Will Require Much Time, Money and Skill, and It Aims at Scientific Efficiency in Running Local Government.**

In the newspapers of May 3 there was a despatch of a few lines from Albany which said that the Bureau of Municipal Research had been incorporated there and that its object was to study municipal conditions in New York city with the idea of bettering them. The names of the incorporators were familiar. They showed that the men behind it were those who had become more or less conspicuous with reforms of various kinds in this town, civic, charitable and political. Most folks who read the item, if they gave the matter more than passing thought, its promoters admit, probably said:

"Another one of those reform, visionary, high up in the air affairs for the true, the good and the beautiful."

Practically coincident with the formation of this incorporated bureau have come the revelations of the Ahearn borough administration, and the movement which resulted in making these disclosures was started by the group of men forming the new bureau, which is avoiding the brass band kind of reform.

The bureau is the outgrowth of a year's experimenting by the Citizens' Union with what was called the Bureau of City Betterment. The result of the year's experiment has demonstrated, in the opinion of those who have supported the movement, the need of an entirely separate organization, whose sole purpose it shall be to dig out facts about the city government, of New York especially, and lay them before the authorities and the public and let public opinion do the rest. That is what was done in the case of the Ahearn borough administration.

Those who are behind the movement declare that they are not seeking for sensational revelations with spasmodic fits of reform to follow, nor are they seeking places for any men or set of men, neither are they seeking the removal of officials. They say that they want to learn the exact municipal situation as to finances, as to management of various departments and bureaus, so that if abuses exist they may be known and corrected so that incoming officials may have facts in their possession on which to formulate policies and give the city good government, based on efficiency, and not good intentions.

When the Citizens' Union bureau of city betterment was started one man gave it about $10,000 to see how the plan would work out. The work was begun on January 1, 1906. In December the bureau published a pamphlet entitled "How Manhattan is Governed." This reflected severely upon the Ahearn administration, and Mr. Ahearn at once asked the Mayor for an investigation of his administration. He got it. Whether for politics or for good government alone, the Mayor ordered the Commissioners of Accounts to begin the investigation, and the result has been the Ahearn scandal and the hurried efforts to improve the streets and make things in the borough government cleaner.

It is asserted that other important things have been disclosed by this year of quiet investigation. It has been learned that the city does not know its own financial condition. No one can tell exactly what the origin of the city debt is, and it is asserted as positively that no one knows how much of it is justly chargeable against the debt limit provisions of the city Charter. The assets of the city, its exact equity in realty, for example, it is also asserted, are not known by any official or citizen. It is asserted that no systematic study has been made of the waterfront problem's full bearing upon municipal administration.

Declaration is also made that under the vague and various systems of bookkeeping in the city no comparative study can be made of the departments as to cost of government and of administration. Experts who have been consulted say that if the city attempted to get a full statement of its assets and its liabilities, with a proper understanding of the latter, it would have to be obtained from the title companies at a cost of probably $500,000.

For this reason, and in view of what has been accomplished with a small sum, it has been decided to branch out and incorporate the bureau of municipal research, independent of any political party or movement, with no purpose to oust this or that set of men from office, but with the sole idea of digging out information the publication of which, if public opinion so decides, will cause needed changes.

The incorporators of the municipal research bureau are Prof. E. R. A. Seligman of Columbia University, Frederick A. Cleveland, R. Fulton Cutting, W. H. Allen, Richard Watson Gilder, George McAneny and Frank Tucker. All have been connected with reforms of various kinds. Mr. Cutting is the big man in the Citizens' Union. Mr. Gilder worked efficiently in tenement house reform. Mr. McAneny has been concerned with civil service reform. Mr. Allen is a leader in improving the condition of the poor. Mr. Tucker is prominent in the work of the Provident Loan Association. Prof. Seligman has been interested in various reforms, largely in matters of taxation, and Mr. Cleveland is a statistician skilled in municipal affairs. Prof. Seligman is chairman of the new organization, Frank Tucker is vice-chairman, Mr. Cutting is treasurer, Mr. Allen is secretary, and the director or manager is Henry S. Bruere, who did the digging for the bureau of city betterment.

The new organization has raised some money, a good deal more than the City Betterment Bureau had a year ago, and it has just planned out a line of work. Its first job will be to tackle the city's bookkeeping so as to learn exactly what condition the various departments are in, what the city owns and owes, how far its financial responsibilities extend, and then to tabulate and disseminate this information for the good of officials and citizens. It will probably recommend a uniform method of bookkeeping and will suggest which one should be adopted. With such a system a comparative study of the workings of the departments may be made at a glance.

It will then investigate various branches of municipal activity. It is probable that a study of the waterfront and its possibilities and responsibilities will be undertaken at once. The problem of policing a great city, which is far different from the suppression of vice and crime, will be taken up. Then will come questions of transportation, matters of health, of providing adequate and constantly increasing school accommodations; the case of parks, improving the methods of administration of schools and the like will be taken up. Real facts as to street cleaning will be brought into the light.

The promoters of the movement say that so much chaos exists as to definite information in any of the city's branches of government that there is practically unlimited opportunity for investigation and that it will be a work of years and require a large expenditure of money to get at the facts. The investigation will be continued so long as funds, which are already needed, can be secured. It is asserted that during this year five times the sum now at the disposal of the bureau could be used.

One of the forces that has stimulated activity along the present lines has been a book just published by William H. Allen, entitled "Efficient Democracy." That book explodes the idea that "good men" alone are sufficient to bring about public reforms, and it has a chapter advocating an institute for municipal research. It says:

"Almost without exception so-called reform governments have emphasized goodness rather than efficiency and have, like their corrupt predecessors, failed to see or emphasize the need for a mechanism of effective cumulative publicity. Whatever facts we now possess with regard to the fundamental nature and inner workings of municipal government we owe chiefly to voluntary associations. Notable examples are the sanitary associations that have educated the public to demand stringent health legislation and increasingly effective administration; and charitable associations that have achieved significant reforms, such as the segregation of sexes in almshouses and jails, the placing of children in homes instead of poorhouses and asylums, probation of juvenile and adult offenders, medical care of the insane and imbecile, enactment of child labor and compulsory education laws, State supervision of charities and correction."

Mr. Allen's schedule of what can be accomplished by the new bureau will probably be followed closely, especially as to systematic study of the city budget and department bookkeeping.

The plan of the bureau is to engage high priced and skilled experts, especially in accounting and statistics, men who will be paid so highly that no public office will attract their ambitions. This staff is to dig out and collate facts and when these are obtained they are to be put before the public solely as information. The matter of securing reforms based upon these investigations will be left to others.

Whether these reforms come or not the work of discovery and publicity will be continued until facts sufficient to establish methods of economical and efficient government in municipal affairs are obtained. The work will be begun in New York. If it succeeds it may be extended to other places. Already it is felt that sufficient results have been obtained to justify the existence of the new bureau. Its promoters not only point to the Ahearn investigation as one conspicuous result, but say that it has secured the adoption by the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Estimate of a segregated city budget which will come into effect this year. It has also secured, its leaders assert, the appointment of the Mayor's salary commission, the change in the Commissioner of Accounts' office, when George von Skal retired and John Purroy Mitchel succeeded; the appointment of a commission to abolish insanitary conditions in tenements owned by the city and the establishment of a bureau in the Corporation Counsel's office for pressing the claims against street railroad companies for more than $1,000,000 for paving done by the city between the companies' rails and the institution of more than a hundred suits to recover the money due.

It is also asserted that from the beginning of the movement Mayor McClellan has been in sympathy with it and has cooperated with the work.

## *GOING TO SUE BETTING MEN.*

**To Collect Five Times the Bet for the Benefit of the Poor of the County.**

District Attorney Jerome had a talk on poolrooms yesterday with Corporation Counsel Ellison. Mr. Jerome believes that under the law it is possible to collect in civil suits from bettors any money in excess of $25 wagered on any event and turn the money over to the Commissioner of Charities. Mr. Ellison said he would cooperate with Mr. Jerome and one of Mr. Jerome's assistants, probably Mr. Minor, will be appointed a special Assistant Corporation Counsel to carry on the suits.

Mr. Jerome will supply the information on which to base the first suits. He got a great number of names of bettors and their winnings or losings when he raided the Bob Davis syndicate in Nassau street. Some of the men were pretty prominent. One is a steward of the Jockey Club. Mr. Jerome thinks that rather than get the notoriety connected with a suit the players and bookmakers will compromise.

The law, which is an old one, says that a man who wins or loses a bet of the value of $25 or more "is punishable by a fine of not less than five times the amount won or lost, to be recovered in a civil action," and the money is to go to the county superintendent of the poor or equivalent official for the benefit of the poor of the county.

Mr. Jerome says that as rapidly as possible suits will be brought against the persons who bet with the Davis syndicate. The books of the syndicate show that more than a million dollars had changed hands from the first of the year. The books also showed that there were unpaid bets of over $100,000.

"Each person betting," said Mr. Jerome, "will have an opportunity to compromise the litigation before a suit is begun, and of course as fast as the suits are begun, the names of the defendants, the circumstances of the transactions and the amounts won or lost will necessarily become public, because we shall deem it our duty to file in the County Clerk's office our verified complaints."

Mr. Jerome said the same thing could be done at the racetracks, but there are no racetracks in this county. It is possible that the money (when collected) will build a new Bellevue Hospital.

Under the Dowling law the men who profess to handle election bets in large amounts every October could be compelled to disclose the principals, if any such exist, and it might not be so easy to rig the odds with fictitious bets.

If the law now appealed to, although perfectly well known, has ever been enforced recollection of the fact has failed.

As Mr. Jerome left Mr. Ellison's office Little Tim Sullivan walked in.

## *VOLUNTEERS AS FIRE HORSE.*

**Six Foot Five Soldier Gets a Job in the Department on Sight.**

A man whose head came near bumping the transom walked into the office of Fire Commissioner Lantry at Fire Headquarters yesterday.

"Say, boss, will you give me a job as fireman?" he asked. "I can put up the heaviest ladders you've got; or if the horses give out on the way to a fire I can pull the engine. I'm not afraid of fires. I was the first man to get over the inner wall at Pekin when we went to China."

"Who are you, anyway?" asked the Commissioner.

"I'm Jere Murray of 317 West Forty-fourth street. I used to be a corporal of Company K, Ninth United States Infantry."

"Another soldier, eh? We'll have most of Uncle Sam's army applying for jobs in the Fire Department," said the Commissioner. "Who recommends you?"

The man said that he had no influence, political or otherwise, but that he had passed the civil service examination.

"All right, my lad, I'll appoint you," said the Commissioner, to his visitor's great delight.

Murray was sent to the school of instruction to learn the ropes. He was born in the old Fourth ward in this city thirty years ago, has served in the Philippines and in China, and was honorably discharged in 1902. He is 6 feet 5 inches tall and broad in proportion. He has been working as a driver since he left the army.

## *WILL TRY F. A. BURNHAM HERE.*

**Application of Mutual Reserve Man for A Change of Venue Is Denied.**

The application for a change of venue of Frederick A. Burnham and George D. Eldridge, the officers of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association, who have been indicted for grand larceny, was denied yesterday by Justice Dowling in the Supreme Court.

Justice Dowling says that the case with which a jury was obtained in the case of George Burnham, brother of Frederick, who is now in Sing Sing on the same charge, is sufficient answer to the statements in the moving papers that there is too much prejudice against insurance officials in this county for the defendants to get a fair trial.

The trial of Frederick Burnham will now go on next week, Justice Greenbaum in the Criminal Term of the Supreme Court having granted a postponement till Justice Dowling's decision should be rendered.

## *VISIT THE CHILDREN'S COURT.*

**Two Newspaper Men From Tokio Sit on the Bench With Justice McKean.**

M. Takaki, chief editor of the Tokio *Law Journal*, and M. Ogino, a Japanese newspaper man, who came here a few days ago to study our jury system and the juvenile courts, sat on the bench with Justice McKean in the Children's Court yesterday. There are no juvenile courts in Japan, but at the next session of Parliament they intend to enact legislation establishing a jury system and methods for the correction of the young that will probably be modelled on American lines.

The Japanese newspaper men are not here on an official visit, as a committee of Judges and lawyers is to be sent here in the fall by the Mikado to make an official investigation of our jury system and children's courts, and when they have studied the methods in the principal cities of the United States they will make a report to the highest judicial officer in the empire.

M. Takaki and M. Ogino spent yesterday afternoon as the guests of Supt. Jenkins of the Children's society and had explained to them how children who fall into the hands of the law are cared for until they are committed to institutions. They will visit the principal cities of Europe before returning to Japan.

## *THE NEW AUTO CHASERS.*

**Gen. Bingham Wouldn't Allow Them to Go Faster Than 62 Miles an Hour.**

The new double cylinder motorcycles that have recently been added to the Police Department's artillery corps were tested yesterday up in The Bronx. Commissioner Bingham and a few friends journeyed over the Harlem Bridge and watched the six new automobile chasers go it at the rate of sixty-two miles an hour. The machines can do seventy miles in an hour, but Gen. Bingham said it was too dangerous for them to go at that speed in the trials and he allowed Sergt. Benjamin Mallon and the five rough riders who comprise the heavy artillery to go only sixty-two miles in sixty minutes.

## *POLICEMAN GILL DISMISSED.*

**Had an Interest in Stables Where Police Mounts Were Boarded.**

Policeman Thomas Gill of the boiler squad, who was a partner in the Pensacola Stables, where Police Department horses were boarded, was dismissed from the force yesterday by Commissioner Bingham. Gill was put on trial at Headquarters several months ago, and it was brought out that he not only had a half interest in the stables but that he hired out department mounts to patrons on Sundays. It is against the rules of the department for a policeman to engage in any business.


R. H. Macy & Co.'s Attractions Are Their Low Prices.

**Macy's** B'way at 6th Av. 34th to 35th St.

**In Progress: The May Sale of UNDERMUSLINS and Allied Lines of Women's, Misses' and Children's Apparel.**

**Fine Oriental Rugs.** Third Floor.

**Special Offering of Turkish, Indian and Persian Weaves, At Marked Reductions From Regular Prices.**

Sizes about 9x12 feet ..... **$94.50**
Sizes up to 10½x15 feet ..... **$124.00 and $144.00**

**Silky Mossuls** and a number of **Rugs from Eastern Persia**, including antique pieces in excellent state of preservation. Sizes up to 4½x7½ feet. Value $30.00 and $32.50, sale ..... **$19.94**

We are showing very extensive assortments of Oriental Rugs, including many recently received from Constantinople, at prices ranging up to $1,275.00.

**Sale of Royal Wilton Rugs.** Third Floor.

SAMPLES—in a semi-annual sale. Twice a year the Royal Wilton samples come to us for distribution.

This year the collection embraces two most wanted sizes in Oriental designs and rich colorings:

8¼x10½-foot size, $35.00 value ..... **$29.74** | 9x12-foot size, $39.50 value ..... **$32.48**

**MATTINGS: SAVE $1.00 TO $2.00 A ROLL.**

China and Japanese Mattings, this year's importation—so you may be sure they are fresh, pliant and as durable as new Mattings can be. In 40-yards, these reductions:

| China Matting. | | Japanese Matting. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Regularly $9.34, sale... | $8.34 | Regularly $10.89, sale... | $9.89 |
| Regularly $11.89, sale... | $10.48 | Regularly $12.89, sale... | $11.48 |
| Regularly $14.49, sale... | $12.49 | Regularly $21.48, sale... | $17.48 |

**TWO CARPET SPECIALS:**

**Wool Velvet Carpet,** best quality, with and without borders to match; regularly $1.09 a yard; sale ..... **89c**

**Tapestry Brussels Carpet,** best quality, light and medium effects; regularly 89c and 94c a yard; sale ..... **69c**



Price $3.00

**Royal Worcester ADJUSTO CORSET**

FOR STOUT WOMEN

Reduces the hips and abdomen in *"the twinkling of an eye."*

There are over **Seven Million** stout women in America. If you are one you should wear an Adjusto, the *only* corset that will shape superfluous flesh into a graceful contour.

**Style 610** For Short Stout Figures
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Also made in Batiste for Summer Wear

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**ASTOR** B'way, 45th St. Evgs. 8:30. LAST WEEK. Last Mat. Sat. "A CURE FOR THE BLUES." **BEFORE AND AFTER**
NEXT MON. First Time in New York. **THE BUILDERS** SEAT SALE TO-DAY.

**ELANEY'S LINCOLN SQ.** B'way & 66th St. Evs. 8:15. Mats. Wed. & Sat. 2:15. Xtr. Mat. Friday. "BUSTER BROWN." NEXT WEEK—KELLAR, The Magician.

**BOSTOCKS** Animal Arena **CONEY ISLAND** OPENS SATURDAY

**NEW STAR** Lex. av. & 107th st. Mat. Saturday. 15, 25, 35. Howard The Millionaire 50 & 75c. Hall in Detective.

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THE BEST **$3.50 SHOES** FOR MEN

**DO YOU WEAR W. L. DOUGLAS SHOES? IF NOT, I BELIEVE I CAN GIVE YOU GOOD AND SUFFICIENT REASONS WHY IT WILL PAY YOU TO WEAR THEM.**

I give the wearer the benefit of my thorough and practical knowledge of shoemaking, which has extended over fifty years.

I give the wearer the benefit of my exclusive method of tanning the bottom soles, which makes them more flexible and gives longer wear than any other sole leather produced in this country.

As I am the largest manufacturer of men's fine Hand-Sewed Process shoes in the world, it is necessary for me to purchase leather and other materials in enormous quantities; the benefit of the very low prices I obtain I give to the weare in superior quality over other makes.

If I could take you into my large factories at Brockton, Mass., and show you how carefully W. L. Douglas shoes are made, you would then understand why they hold their shape, fit better, wear longer and are of greater value than any other make.

W. L. Douglas, Brockton, Mass.:
I have worn Custom made shoes for about 23 years. Recently I purchased a pair of W. L. Douglas $3.50 shoes and have worn them since with satisfaction. Hereafter Douglas shoes for mine.
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**THESE ARE A FEW OF THE REASONS WHY I MAKE AND SELL MORE MEN'S FINE HAND-SEWED PROCESS $3.50 SHOES THAN ANY OTHER MANUFACTURER IN THE WORLD.**

***W. L. DOUGLAS $4.00 GILT EDGE SHOE***
*Cannot be Equalled at Any Price.*

W. L. DOUGLAS BOYS' SHOES $1.75 AND $2.00. JUST THE SAME AS MY MEN'S $3.50 SHOES, THE SAME LEATHERS, FOR $1.75 AND $2.00.

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**Majestic** B'way & 59th. Tel. 3500 Col. Ev. 8:15. Mats. Wed. & Sat. 2:15. Margaret Wycherly in The Primrose Path. Next Week | Uncle Tom's Cabin | Big Cast. Seats To-day

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**BROADWAY THEATRE,** B'way & 41st St. Evs. 8:10. Mat. Sat. 2:10. The Biggest Success in All New York. **ANNA HELD** in The Parisian Model.

**LIBERTY** THEATRE, West 42d St. Evs. 8:15. Last Matinee Saturday, 2:15. LAST 4 TIMES **ELEANOR ROBSON** as **"Salomy Jane"** By Paul Armstrong.

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