small a council (or better still a council of fifteen) and proportional representation, the single electoral district is good.

4. *General Manager!* The manager is to be appointed, suspended or dismissed by the council—"by majority vote"—"for cause." "He shall be chosen solely on the basis of his executive and administrative capacities." His powers are set forth at length. He would have powers of appointment over all heads of departments except

the city clerk, city attorney and city auditor. His appointments could be rejected only by a majority vote of the whole council. The mayor would have only the functions of a dignitary.

The talk of Montreal is that there is no man living—whether French or English—who can govern Montreal.

The *Chambre de Commerce* is actively opposed to the proposals. Even forward looking citizens are pessimistic.

THE ANTITHESIS OF HOME RULE

BY IRA W. STRATTON

Former Mayor of Reading, Pennsylvania

Reading must automatically abolish her present commission government and take up a new form with new corporate rights and duties simply because her population has reached 100,000. Her new form would be the same as that of Pittsburgh. :: :: :: :: ::

I

THE Constitution of Pennsylvania, adopted in 1874, permits of the classification of cities. The act of May 23, 1874, provides for three classes. Since that time, the legislature sought to extend the number of classes of cities from three to five, and again to seven, but these acts were declared unconstitutional, it being held that the power of classification permissible under the constitution having once been exercised by the legislature in the act of 1874, it was not competent thereafter to extend the number of classes as originally fixed.

First Class Cities are those containing a population of one million or over (Philadelphia). Second Class Cities are those containing a population of one hundred thousand and under one million (Pittsburgh and Scranton). Third Class Cities are those containing a population under one hundred thousand.

II

The press bulletin from Washington, gives the population of Reading, Pa., as 107,784 for the 1920 census. When in the course of time these figures are officially transmitted to the state authorities, then becomes operative the Act of June 25, 1895.

"Whenever it shall appear by any such census that any city of the Third Class has attained a population entitling it to an advance in classification, it shall be the duty of the Governor, under the great seal of the Commonwealth, to certify the fact accordingly, which certificate shall be entered at large upon the minutes of the council of such city, and recorded in the office for recording of deeds of the proper county. . . . At the next municipal election . . . the proper officers shall be elected to which the said city will become entitled under the change in classification."

A state constitutional amendment was adopted by vote of the people in 1909—which provides for all regular municipal elections to be held in odd

numbered years. The next municipal election will therefore be in November, 1921, and the officers then elected will take office the first Monday in January, 1922. This date, under existing laws, will be the time when Reading, Pennsylvania, will become in fact a Second Class City of Pennsylvania.

The laws of Pennsylvania giving charter rights to cities of the second class differ in many respects from those of third class cities. In third class cities, the mayor and four councilmen meet as council and are clothed with legislative and executive power; each member also being head of a department. In second class cities, the mayor is not a member of council but he has full executive power, has the right of approval or veto of all legislation passed by council, and appoints, subject to the approval of council, all department heads. Council has all legislative power vested in it.

There are many other minor features of material difference. Unless care is

exercised during the period of transition, the expense of operating a second class city will be very much greater than that of a third class city. A judicious interpretation with common sense application is highly necessary.

The law is clear about councilmen, their powers and terms of office, but acts pertaining to other officials are somewhat hazy. There is no outstanding precedent to follow: Pittsburgh and Scranton both went through the fire of the 1901 "ripper act," and it is hoped that Reading will escape a repetition of this disgraceful experience. It is possible that the legislature of 1921 will clear the atmosphere.

The legislature of 1919 proposed two amendments to the State Constitution. Should these pass the 1921 legislature and subsequently be approved by vote of the people, cities of Pennsylvania will be reclassified into seven classes and home rule given them. Such action may find Reading in the course of a few years again changed to another class.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN CALGARY

BY GEORGE V. FERGUSON

P. R. was first used in Calgary in 1917. It returns a well balanced council and grows more popular each year. :: :: :: ::

I

CALGARY, with a population of some 70,000 inhabitants, is the largest city in Alberta. It is an important railroad and industrial centre, and, with its numerous grain elevators and warehouses is also the distributing centre for southern and central Alberta. The population consists of a fairly even balance of industrial workers on the one hand and business men, merchants and distributors on the other. There

are 28,000 names on the municipal electoral lists, but of these, ten to fifteen thousand are non-resident property owners. Municipal business has been kept remarkably free from taint; the ward system was abolished some years ago; boss-ridden, machine-made politics do not exist; and there has been no suspicion of corruption in the conduct of affairs. Organization for the city elections is only partial, the only systematic organization being that of the Labor party.