

# EXHIBIT 5

Monday,]

YOUNG.

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give a fixity to the several codes which cannot fail of good results.

The second, third and fourth clauses relate to and control the power and methods of taxation. Property-holders must have some rights even against a majority. Unlimited taxation may mean confiscation, and the citizen has the right to know that there is a limit beyond which no taxation can ever go. We have fixed this at one and a half per centum per annum. While this is full high, it is not so high as to become absolutely oppressive. Yet it is a limit beyond which no power should allow taxation, and yet it is great enough to cover any ordinary emergency that human foresight can now adjudge to be necessary. This power of taxation and municipal indebtedness has been very often abused. The cities of Louisville and Covington now owe twelve per cent. of the amount of their taxables, and, unless in cases of public safety, this sum should never be increased. This rate of one and a half per centum is exclusive of present interest and sinking fund charges, and on this per cent. every municipality should live, and if it does not, then the Constitution of the State should intervene and demand that no higher rate be allowed.

The eighth section involves a very important change in the election of municipal legislative bodies. The idea generated by the Federal Constitution has gone through our municipal government, and, in most cases, this control has been placed in the hands of two boards, each elected by certain defined districts or wards in each city. The natural result has followed that, as the number of electors interested in each legislator was decreased, the standard of representation was necessarily lowered.

The best thought on this subject is to the effect that, as the constituency is increased, the standard of representation would be elevated, and the Committee have provided that, in the most numerous body of the legislative board, the representative should

reside in each ward or district, and that the persons composing the least numerous branch of the legislative board should not only be chosen by the city at large, but might be taken from any portion thereof. This ought to remedy some of the worst evils in our municipal elections. "Bummers" and irresponsible parties may secure the indorsement of a particular district or ward by reason of local influences or expenditure of money, but unless good citizens all over the city become utterly and absolutely indifferent to the public welfare, they ought to be able, in so large a district, and with so many voters removed from local influence, to select the best known and most capable men. It must be conceded that some change is demanded, and that almost any change will be for the better, and the experience of other cities shows that the plan suggested has worked well, and, so far, has produced a better class of men than could be obtained under the present arrangement. Any reasonable hope of improvement is alluring, and though, in the end, it may prove delusive, yet for a little while we may indulge the dream that the future will be better than the past. This provision has been made to apply to school trustees. In the present condition of popular education, the standard of school trustees in the larger cities ought to be elevated. Wise, honorable and learned trustees are an object of interest to every parent, and ought, in such a general election as is provided for, give to any community the very best men.

The fifteenth section of the report is also designed to correct a very grievous and widening evil. In this State most valuable municipal franchises have been bestowed upon favorites or schemers, and the municipal treasury robbed of millions of dollars. The franchises in the city of Louisville, given away or secured by an improper influence over its council, would to-day pay over one-half of its ten millions of debt.