

And to do that they need money, and the money must come from rates. No one likes paying rates, and in a small community where Commissioners are easily accessible and the Board's offices a brisk walk from most places in the town the local representatives soon hear their fellow-townpeople's views on the subject.

The staff of a Town Board is small, almost microscopic, and plant and machinery are scant. But if they do not keep their drains and sewage works up to standard the Health Department of the Government is soon on their doorstep to ask why and the Public Works Department takes more than an academic interest in the Board's maintenance of the highways that traverse the town.

With staff so small, a good deal of the work of supervision of local undertakings falls to the lot of the individual Commissioner. If he has specialized knowledge (he may be an engineer or builder by craft), so much the better, and so much more fortunate for the Board. His knowledge and experience will be invaluable.

And on occasion when the job is big and the men to do it few, well—the Commissioner can honestly say he is working for the town, for off comes his coat, and, with pick or long-handled shovel, he helps to build up the town in a literal sense.

His position is not an exalted one, the prestige it carries perhaps not great, but the Town Commissioner, as much as any of the members of local authorities, is "of and for the people."

the future of WARTIME CONTROLS

by L. C. WEBB



From the *Journal of Public Administration*

AS THE end of the war draws near, the question of what part of the elaborate system of wartime economic controls is going to be carried over into the peace becomes of first importance to public servants. For upon the answer to that question will largely depend the nature and the functions of the post-war Civil Service. We can, of course, only guess at the answer, because there is everywhere uncertainty as to the sort of economic system that is likely to emerge from the war and also because, in war, there is little time for research and for unhurried and objective thinking. But it is necessary that we should begin to guess on the basis of such imperfect knowledge as is available to us, for anything is better than that we

should enter the post-war period with no clear idea of the scope and the objective of public administration.

Public Opinions and Controls

It is already obvious in this country (and also in Australia and in Great Britain) that public opinion is going to make itself felt on this question of controls. By this I do not mean merely the pronouncements of bodies like the chambers of commerce, which are traditionally the defenders of unfettered private enterprise. There are signs that the public generally, irrespective of their economic interests or political opinions, have grown very weary of coupons, forms, and regulations. There are signs, too, of a deep-seated uneasiness over the