

March 2018

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Conducting Model City Government

Expected To Be Of Great
Educational Value



Louis Phillippe Gagne

Lewiston, May 28.—In connection with the Americanization and Naturalization classes that have been conducted in Lewiston for the past two Winters by Arthur G. Legendre, a new feature has been added this week, which is expected to be of great educational value to those seeking citizenship. This is a "model city government," patterned after the Lewiston municipal government with a mayor and a city council composed of seven members, with the usual clerk and other officers.

This government will transact municipal business in regular form and all of its deliberations will be carried on in the English language. Its membership will include aliens, regardless of their nationality, who are members of the naturalization class, and any member is eligible to any office to which he can be elected by a majority of votes.

The first election was held last Sunday following the regular meeting of the class, and was in keeping with the election laws of the State of Maine.

Louis Phillippe Gagne was elected mayor, and the aldermen are: Ward 1, Mrs. Leontine Drouin; Ward 2, Napoleon Roderique; Ward 3, Athanase Grenier; Ward 4, Joseph Fournier; Ward 5, Donat Moreau; Ward 6, Miss Irene Roy; Ward 7, Joseph Caron.

The Inauguration

The "mayor" was inaugurated in regular form, and delivered an inaugural address in which he emphasized several events that have recently taken place in the Lewiston municipal government, and promised that there would be no "secret sessions" of this council and that the board would work for the best interests of the city. Among the things promised was the long needed bridge across the Androscoggin River, between the present North and South bridges.

This new feature will demonstrate to the members of the naturalization class the actual procedure of a municipal government, the methods employed and results accomplished, and will further advance them in the speaking and reading of the English language, the language of the Country. The members are enthusiastic over their "government," which will hold its second meeting next Sunday.

Louis Phillippe Gagne, the new "mayor", was born in Quebec City, April 1, 1900. He was educated at Quebec Seminary, and when 18 years

of age, began his work as a newspaper man, entering the employ of Le Soleil, published in Quebec, as a reporter. He continued with this paper until September, 1922, when he came to Lewiston to become an associate editor and reporter on Le Messager, a tri-weekly French language paper published in Lewiston. He has since become classified advertising manager of the publication.

Booster For Lewiston

He has taken an intense interest in all civic affairs since coming to the United States, and is a great booster for Lewiston. He organized the first snowshoe club in Lewiston, LaMontagne and was its first president, and was also the first president of the American Snowshoe Union. He is a lover of all outdoor sports, especially baseball, and has been one of the moving spirits in raising funds to hold and maintain New England baseball in Lewiston this year.

Mr. Gagne married a Lewiston girl in 1923 and has two little daughters. Their home is 172 Walnut Street, Lewiston. In his newspaper work, Mr. Gagne has established a "clipping bureau" of his own, which he conducts for his own information and amusement. He has a wonderful collection of clippings concerning all events of universal as well as local importance during the past five years. He has taken out his first naturalization papers, and expects to take out his second papers next September, and shortly after will become a full fledged American citizen.