

The Toronto "Globe" by inserting such a stupid and libellous paragraph has not only done harm to the Town of Sarnia, but incidentally to every municipality in Canada, by suggesting that any Canadian Town could be "Dead Broke."

Surely, before publishing a despatch containing news of what has never been known in Canada, namely the insolvency of a Canadian town, the editor who recorded it should have taken a little pains to verify it.

The "Globe" had seriously lowered its reputation for veracity by its political statements "which are not founded on fact." But when it publishes such a libel on a Canadian municipality, it is beyond the pale.

Almost a Civic Number

The way in which civic questions are being taken up in quarters not entirely devoted to them is well shown in the September number of that interesting and beautifully illustrated magazine, "The Craftsman." Quite frequently the Editor, Gustave Stickley, includes an article which comes within the wide boundaries of "Civics," but this issue might almost be a Civic Number.

"The frontispiece "Sea Power" depicts the entrance to New York harbour, but the artist, Reuter Dahl, in choosing his title is evidently oblivious of the fact that the vessels entering the harbour, and which really represent "Sea Power", are practically all foreign-owned!

"The New Chicago" by Hamlin Garland, shows how a man with a vision could, and did, re-create a city on the lines of beauty. The author tells how Daniel H. Burnham laid a plan for the rehabilitation of Chicago before a coterie of artists, and admits their absolute belief that the idea would never become practical. And yet when Burnham died, his great plans had been so far accepted and commenced that he said: "I can now go in perfect faith that our great plan is about to be carried out. The beginning is made, the rest will follow."

The "Accidental Beauty of New York, born out of its civic needs," is a title which too truly points out that "its beauty has been evolved by accident, not because its inhabitants held high ideals of beauty which they have materialized." That New York, as a city, even possesses beauty, may be a matter of opinion. The towering skyscrapers, and the dingy canyons of streets between them, which form so large a proportion of the city proper, may appeal to some as possessing beauty. While to others, they may be immense and wonderful, but the reverse of beautiful. On the other hand, it is satisfactory to see what is being done in the beauty spots of the Parks, even downtown; in the style of architecture of the newest skyscrapers; in the beautification of Central Park; and the erection of handsome public buildings.

That even a destructive earthquake can be made to produce good is seen in the planning of the New San Francisco. The civic centre is described by Adolphus E. Graupner, the design being based upon a plan prepared by the late D. H. Burnham (of Chicago plan fame). Considerable progress has already been made with the plan, the City Hall being under construction.

Next comes "Progress in Civic Improvements in Boston," by Frank Chouteau Brown, which shows how the Report of Civic Improvements issued by the Boston Society of Architects some ten years ago, stimulated public opinion and led to the improvements which are now being carried out. One of the illustrations of special interest shows how the handsome old Doric building is retained as the base of a huge office building—proving the wisdom of adopting old, historic buildings to new conditions, rather than the more common

way of ruthlessly sweeping away all that is old, whether it be beautiful or not.

A lady, Ada Rainey, contributes an article on "Shade Trees for City streets; what they furnish in the way of Beauty, Health and Comfort. The initial sentence gives the key-note: "The connection between public well-being and the planting of shade trees on the streets of our towns and cities is yearly becoming more apparent." This is, however, an idea that needs a good of forcing upon the public; for while the beauty of shade trees in streets is generally admitted, yet the hygienic value is not so well understood.

Two short articles on "The Ragged Edges of the City," and "Backyards and Vacant-lot Gardens," the latter showing results in Indianapolis, conclude that portion of the magazine devoted to civics.

Ignorance of Canada

The August number of "The Fra" contains one of Elbert Hubbard's "Little Journeys", and this one is to Saskatoon. That part is discussed elsewhere. But the opening paragraphs touch upon a great and important truth, and that is the utter ignorance of the average citizen of the United States concerning Canada. And this, unfortunately, is largely due to the meagre and misleading information about the Dominion contained in the geographies used in schools in the United States.

Hubbard says: "I once heard Canada described by a high school sophomore as 'that tract of land just opposite Buffalo, New York.'"

Paraphrasing Kipling's line,
"They little know of England,"

"Who only England know."

he applies it, "they little know of the world who only the United States know," and he is perfectly correct.

He goes on to say that the "average American is too busy with his own affairs" to look at the North.

As a corrective, brief figures are given comparing Canada's area of 3,745,574 square miles with that of 3,026,789 for the United States exclusive of Alaska (with Alaska it is 3,560,922, or 184,652 smaller than Canada). Speaking of the emigration from the States to Canada, he says the reason is: "Americans in western Canada are making more money than they could make at home. Their exodus has been no error of judgment. If it were otherwise, you would find a tide of Americans going back to the States. But this is not the case."

He is not afraid to admit that, in some ways, Canada is greater than his own country. He says:

"Canada has a greater extent of wheat-producing land than the United States has; a greater grazing ground; greater potential mineral wealth; greater development possibilities as yet untouched; greater potential electric waterpower; greater fisheries, and perhaps ten to one."

Such a confession of advantages on this side of the line does credit to Hubbard's ideas—not only of truthfulness, but of candour.

It is to be hoped that Hubbard's discovery of the Canadian Northwest may considerably aid in making it known in his own country.

Municipal Engineers

Mr. R. O. Wynne-Roberts, who recently settled in Canada, is suggesting the formation of a "Canadian Institution of Municipal Engineers" on the lines of the British body, and proposes an informal meeting of those who attend the meetings of the Canadian Public Health Association in Regina, Sept. 18th to 20th. Mr. Roberts will be glad to receive the views of those who cannot be present; his address is Regina, Sask.