

REVIEW OF CIVIC IMPROVEMENT

Conducted by

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The New Section

The new venture of an official organ for Associational Co-operation in Civic work, is meeting with universal welcome.

It aims to fill a need in Canada, which is being felt and voiced more or less distinctly on all sides:

A correspondent sends us an editorial of the Toronto Globe, commenting on a communication of Mr. J. S. Woodford, of Winnipeg, to the Canadian and British news urging the formation of a Canadian Welfare League which would become a general clearing house for organizations engaged in welfare work of all kinds, throughout the Dominion. He urges co-operation among all existing associations and the correlation of activities. Referring to the social situation of Winnipeg, he says as follows (we quote the Toronto Globe): "Signs are not lacking in our large centres, at least, that there is a rapidly growing interest in the common good. Gradually organizations are being created, through which this new interest is finding expression. Already we have our Canadian Clubs, Town Planning Associations, Public Welfare Bureaus, Social Service Leagues, etc.

"There is need", he points out, "for the closest possible co-operation, so that social conditions may be so adjusted as to secure the common welfare through the personal services of the citizens."

In Montreal this has been seen for some years and this is the idea upon which its City Improvement League was founded and for which it mainly stands.

There should be a City Improvement League in every large centre which should be recognized as the official clearing house of activities—the servant of all that would make use of it.

Then there should be a union of these and their component societies to form Dominion Associations. In the United States this work is carried out by the National Municipal League, the American Civic Association, the National Housing Association, the National City Planning Association and others.

The City Improvement League shows its belief in "Civic Cooperation" by being members of these. We have no Dominion Associations quite the same at present. There is however the Canadian Public Health Association which is admirably suited for the public health view of life to become the Dominion recognized centre of correlating forces.

These columns will reflect thoughts on Canadian Civic Improvement along corresponding Canadian lines. Till our Associations form into Dominion Associations with their own official journals, we welcome them to make use of this as the common meeting ground of official and unofficial experts, individuals or associations, of those seeking literature on the city as a city and on the general Civic Improvement idea, and spirit of citizenship.

Let us get to know one another through one recognized journal.

Associations are desired through their Secretaries or other accredited representatives, to send in communications for these columns as early as possible, each month.

Those wishing to make arrangements for extended notices, such as annual reports should make special arrangements with the Secretary of the City Improvement League.

All communications should be addressed to 402, Coristine Building, Montreal. Tel. Main 4362 (the office of the Canadian Municipal Journal).

Gregor Memorial

The memorial to Prof. Leigh Richmond Gregor will be shortly erected. It takes the form of a children's drinking fountain and will be placed on the east side of Fletcher's field, opposite the inclined railway on Rachel Street, the little road abutting the children's playground on Fletcher's field. There is no carriage way on this so-called street and it is shaded by trees—a very suitable situation.

The City Council has accepted the recommendation of the Controllers to accept this as a gift to the city and to undertake the cost of installation.

Those wishing to have an opportunity of subscribing to the memorial are invited to apply to the Treasurer, Mr. Farquhar Robertson, 206 St. James St. Montreal.

Prof. Gregor was one of the first pioneers in the new City planning movement organized four years ago at Montreal.

He was a professor of the McGill University and a type of the men now coming more closely into civic life. He also strove to promote the "entente cordiale" between the English and French citizens of Montreal—an act of good citizenship. His premature death on January 1st, 1912, was a shock to his many English and French speaking friends.

Approaching Conventions

The Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities takes place this year at Saskatoon, Sask., on July 15th, 16th, 17th. Any member of the League in that neighbourhood at the time would be a welcomed guest.

The National Housing Association (105 East 22nd Street, New York) through its Secretary and Director Mr. Lawrence Veiller writes to tell us that the next conference will be held in Cincinnati some time between Oct. 15th and 31st.

The "American Civic Association" (Headquarters, Washington, D.C.) through its European Tour Department, Albert R. Green, Manager, 31 Trinity Place, Boston, writes to tell us that the Civic Tour of Europe is soon to start. Its itinerary is one specially designed for civic improvers and lovers of the City Beautiful.

Dr. E. E. Pratt writes that he has a few reservations left for the trips that he is directing under the auspices of New York University. For prompt reply address him, 192 Claremont Avenue, New York City. This tour is for the observation and study of Industrial and Commercial plants, business methods and conditions in Europe.

There is great value in our members keeping account of the conventions in view. Some of our members were present at the recent National Conference on City Planning at Chicago, May 5th to 7th, and studied the exhibit in the banquet room of the Hotel La Salle—by the way, a pioneer's name from Montreal. The Mayor of Montreal, Mr. L. A. Lavallée, was also there and the cause of the City Planning gained by his visit.