

A LESSON FOR CANADIAN CITIES.

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"American Cities: Their Methods of Business," by Arthur Benson Gilbert, M.A., is a strong and clear-headed volume on city economics which should be read by all thinking business men, although written by an ex-professor. The author announces that his ideas are chiefly due to the influence of the celebrated Tom Johnson, the late mayor of Cleveland, "the first man in the United States to grasp clearly the principles by which cities must be promoted." "The Johnson principles that made Cleveland the best city in his time in the United States must," he says, "soon receive universal recognition." According to him the foundations of an ideal city will be found in long-sighted scientific business management, after which will follow the artistic and cultural excellences; merely "honest" government fails because of stupidity, and ordinary "business man's government" is too short-sighted and superficial. Competition to-day is so keen, between cities as well as business firms, that even well endowed and well-situated communities must fail as against those where system and efficiency are thoroughly adopted, and it is necessary to save every leak and develop every advantage to the full.

Therefore the city's first object should be to furnish special advantages (differentials) to its business. To do so it must favor production—rather than ownership, and make its first care the prosperity of the working classes, like the Germans. "Cities live by their business life with the outside world, and on this foundation build religion, culture and morals." Hence all wastes must be avoided: the ward system, graft, monopolies, debauchery, bad housing, private-owned waterfronts, poor terminal facilities. The old system of mayor and council must give way to the Manager plan of government, complete and exact surveys must be drawn up and applied, the city must acquire and operate its chief public utilities so as to deliver good services at cost. All these points are strongly and intelligently discussed in a manner appealing to business men. The author regrets that business classes often oppose some of these improvements because they have not thought them out. At the same time, perhaps, he does not sufficiently allow for peculiarly composed communities like polygot Montreal, nor for the necessity of effort at the same time by other elements than those of business, such as the churches and settlement workers. And have not the German communities over emphasized materialistic ideals of progress? Nevertheless, it is true that our responsible business men have not as a whole properly backed up those who work for reforms nor grasped the full injury done to themselves by bad civic conditions and mismanagement.—Canadian Bookman.

THE URGENCY OF THE HOUSING PROBLEM Continued

than here," said she. "You possess the ideal country for the maintenance of health and vigor; your air possesses the richest of all vital elements, but you lack organized effort to fight the dreaded malady and your hygienic conditions are lamentable."

Let me state, in concluding, that the city of Pointe-aux-Trembles, has heard the solemn and serious remarks made by Madame Fiedler. The natural beauty of this city's site, the vastness of her unbuilt lands, the spirit of progressiveness that characterizes her citizens, all of this contributed to promote and develop the idea of establishing, within easy access of Canada's great metropolis, a real Garden City for the laboring masses — and this is the first attempt of its kind ever made by a French-Canadian municipality.

The project is yet young, but a very promising future is reserved to it. If we are to believe the testimony of eminent hygienists and well-known sociologists, the houses built within the limits of Pointe-aux-Trembles for occupation by the laboring classes are pointed out as models of the kind. The garden at the front of the house, the large yard at the back, the number of rooms in the house, their distribution so as to assure plenty of air and light, the vicinity of America's foremost river, the pure air, the sun-bathed coast line, all contribute to make of these dwellings as many forts against tuberculosis and the many other forms of preventable diseases.

An article dealing with the Housing Scheme at Pointe-aux-Trembles, of which Mayor Prieur is founder, appeared in the August (1918) issue of this Journal.

CANADIAN CITIES AS FOSTER PARENTS TO FRENCH AND BELGIAN CITIES.

JOHN KIDMAN.

The war period has been prolific in declarations of enduring bonds of friendship between the Allies who have fought, suffered and triumphed together. There would seem to be some danger, however, that but little result may accrue from these protestations of eternal friendship made by post-prandial orators unless they can be translated into some tangible form. One of the outstanding features of the war has been that the names of certain cities, villages and countrysides which until hostilities began, were only geographical names to most people, have become household words because their soil has been drenched with the blood of our kith and kin. To Canadians the names of Ypres, Arras, Armentieres, Lens, Vimy Ridge, Albert, Bapaume, Courcellette, Amiens and Cambrai, will be for ever associated with our national history. But is it to be an association of fighting and bloodshed only, or is it possible to soften these jagged edges of a mutually cruel experience by bringing together in some way the lives and necessities of the same peoples under peace conditions? A kindly and well-intentioned sentiment has already prompted the idea of planting maple tree seeds in France and Flanders where Canadians lie with their martial cloaks around them; but that scheme still points to the grave, whereas it should be possible to do something of benefit to the survivors.

The most enduring monument to the fallen will be not in marble pillars and urns or in trees, but in practical help and sympathy shown to the people who suffered invasion of their country. Supposing then that Canadian municipalities or counties were to stand as sponsors for the rehabilitation of these stricken cities, villages and countrysides and stand by them as godfather until they were able to look after themselves? This, then is the proposal: that a given city or group of parishes in Canada should adopt a city or parish in France or Belgium. Money would be collected and disbursed from time to time; but money would not necessarily be the only form of assistance. The Soldiers' Wives' Leagues and other organizations of that class might continue their efforts and send garments, household articles, food and comforts for families which are beginning life over again. Merchants might give materials such as lumber and other requisites required for building operations or for re-establishing industrial activities. Further, there might be some friendly correspondence between Canadian families and French or Belgian families which were willing to take a personal interest in the upbuilding of individual homes.

Such a scheme would need to be carefully organized. It would be necessary to have a Dominion committee to allocate the towns or group of parishes to be adopted and to play the part of foster parents on this side. Then each city or group of small parishes would need a committee to carry out the work allotted to them for city or district overseas. Possibly the active sympathy of leading municipal councils might be invoked in the way of making a grant, also in affording any facilities such as municipal body would be able to give in the way of organization.

Canadian troops for many months lived just in front of and around Lens, a big colliery town in France, which was entirely destroyed and ruined. They looked forward to capturing it from the Hun, for like a ripe apple, it was all ready to fall into their lap; but the sudden emergency call to Amiens snatched this victory from our men. If Montreal or Toronto or Winnipeg would undertake to adopt this city and look after it for the next decade, its capture would be completed in an undreamed of manner. There is a good choice of these devastated cities and villages, and if Three Rivers or Sherbrooke were to undertake to reconstruct Courcellette, or Hamilton to rebuild Arras, the "Bonne Entente" would be assured on a permanent basis.

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There is an estimated decrease of 28,000,000 head of cattle in the principal countries of Europe. Years must elapse before European beef and dairy production is back to normal.