

German Law that Affects Canada

According to the American Journal of International Law, there is a German statute which allows a born German who emigrates to a foreign country to retain his original citizenship, provided he complies with certain conditions. The particular law reads as follows:—

"Citizenship (in Germany) is not lost by one who, before acquiring foreign citizenship, has secured on application the written consent of the competent authorities of his home State to retain his citizenship. Before this consent is given the German Consul is to be heard."

In the United States it is being urged that the naturalization laws of that country, which in its early days were made to meet such a situation, be now changed so as to make it impossible for any German, who wishes to become an American citizen, to nullify the oath of allegiance by the subterfuge of this German-made law. In France the situation is met by the cancelling of the naturalization papers of any one who has "kept his original nationality." But in Canada there is no provision to counteract the evil influence of such a law, which in the words of the Montreal "Daily Mail," is enlightening for it gives a striking idea of the powerful ambition which

animates Germany, and suggests to what depths she is prepared to go to make her dreams of world dominion come true. Such evidence as this must inevitably put the whole civilized world on guard against Germany."

It is quite true that up to the present most Germans in Canada, who have taken the oath of allegiance, have kept their word, even in the spirit, and have made good citizens, but it must not be forgotten that on the declaration of war many Germans, finding they could not otherwise leave the country, took out their naturalization papers, until the thing was stopped as being too patent. There is also the danger that when the war is over, unless our naturalization laws are altered to cope with the German law, Germany, finding herself defeated in battle, and consequently with no colonies of any kind of her own, will direct her emigration, which she cannot stop, to those countries where she hopes there will be a chance to realize in another way her dream of world domination. Canada must guard herself against crafty German legislation of this kind. Germany has shown to the world only too well that with her the end always justifies the means.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

The advisability of some medium of co-operative and fraternal intercourse between municipal officials in Canada has long been evident, but the difficulties inherent to a country of such vast distances and scattered municipalities have been a deterrent factor in discussing the question.

The officials of Fort William, have now taken the first step and inaugurated an association which already includes the officials in the Twin Cities—Fort William and Port Arthur.

An inaugural banquet was held at Fort William early this month, and it is hoped that this will be the beginning of an Association that will be Canada-wide.

Its first result in meeting in such a friendly way the civic officials of two cities which, in certain respects, have been such rivals, is, we hope, an augury of the success which will attend such an organization.

Such Associations along the same lines are in existence in England but are divided into different branches. In Canada attempts have been made to band together the officials of certain branches, but it seems wiser that all officials should be included in a Canadian organization.

Mr. J. M. Cosgrave, auditor of Fort William, Ont., is the secretary, and will, we are sure, be glad to give further information.

ENCOURAGING CITY EMPLOYEES.

Cash bonuses for city employees who make suggestions for the betterment of the service in their various departments are to be offered in Oakland, Cal., at the suggestion of the civil service board. The board has sent a letter to the head of each city department suggesting this bonus idea, and it has been taken up enthusiastically as an efficient means to add efficiency in municipal work.

As a preliminary step, employees who make good sug-

gestions are to be given special credit in their efficiency rating, and the cash bonus plan will be put in operation later. The letter to the heads of departments is as follows:

"The Civil Service Department of the City of Oakland wishes for definite, constructive suggestions for the improvement of the manner of doing the city's work, such suggestions to deal with any or all of the following subjects: Organization; methods of work; efficiency markings; salaries; vacations and leaves of absence; promotions and examinations.

"In estimating the value of plans proposed the department will have the aid of committees from the offices and employees. Special credit will be given for every suggestion adopted, which will materially affect the person's efficiency rating.

"If this plan brings forth enough of profit to the city, a system of cash bonuses will be worked out for its further development."

A GERMAN CAPTURE.

The damage done by the German cruiser "Emden," before it was sunk by the Australian cruiser "Sydney," comes home to all interested in town planning in the announcement that the steamer "Clan Grant," one of the vessels sunk by the cruiser in Indian waters, contained as part of its cargo the invaluable collection of maps, plans, models, etc., which made up the exhibits of the Cities and Town Planning Committee. The exhibit was on its way to Madras, Bombay and Calcutta by invitation of the various Governments. Professor Geddes, to whom the exhibition owes its origin, and who has spent the greater part of the last few years in bringing it to so wonderful a pitch of excellence, had himself left for India, but fortunately on another boat. He and his son have arrived safely, but without the collection, and great effort is undertaken by the Committee to replace the salient features and to forward as soon as possible a representative collection. The actual value of the material that is lying at the bottom of the Indian Ocean is some two or three thousand pounds, and that is independent of all the labor which has been expended upon it by Professor Geddes and other earnest workers.

The housing problem is business. City planning is business. Sanitary science and public health are business. These are questions for every employer and employee to consider, for only under favorable living conditions can the human unit reach the maximum of efficiency.