

### THE CURFEW FOR CHILDREN.

"Curfew to blow at ten o'clock, p.m., daylight saving time, beginning May 2nd., after which hour children must not appear on the streets except when accompanied.

The above regulation is taken from the minutes of a recent meeting of the new model town of Iroquois Falls, in Northern Ontario, that was built by the Abitibi Pulp & Paper Company for its employees. It seems strange that such an old custom, which is a relic of the Norman invasion of England, should be revived in the newest of communities located over 3,000 miles from the country in which it originated, and where, except in a few instances, it is only a memory. Old though the custom may be it is an excellent one so far as young people are concerned, and the Council of Iroquois Falls is to be congratulated on its determination to ensure children being indoors after dark. The habit of young people roaming the streets at all hours of the night has become too prevalent, and if the sound of the Curfew can break it off, then let it be heard by all or any means in all our towns and cities.

### THINGS THAT ARE USELESS.

Though seemingly paradoxical the recent statement of ex-Dean Moyse, of McGill University, that "unless a university teaches useless things it is not a university," was not only a truth in itself but a challenge to materialism. The true function of the university is to inculcate ideas and principles of life and conduct, and to build character, and in doing these things many "useless" subjects, in so far as they bring material results, must be taught. Culture in itself has no earning power when measured by the dollar mark, but culture is a desirable thing in every well living family and community—and by culture we mean the knowledge and intelligent interpretation of that which is fine and beautiful in all things. It is an understanding and appreciation of the spiritual in our nature — whether expressed in song or word, in music or painting—that uplift the community and the nation and it is in the cultivation of these ideas, the seeds of which are implanted in every human being, that the true work of the university lies.

This does not mean that the material side of university training should be neglected, for industrialism with its specialized training is very necessary for the economic development of a young country, but unless that which is best in us is encouraged and developed in our universities, our colleges and our schools, our citizenship will suffer. We would then soon sink down to rank materialism, from which may we be preserved.

### FUNCTION OF A CITY PLAN.

"The function of a city plan is to wield both our accomplishments and our future requirements together, and there can be no question as to its great economic value. It would visualize in a large measure the city's present and future requirements—it must be clear that to secure the greatest economy and even ahead of the city's growth—and by affording a true perspective would enable the city to determine the relative urgency, and to control the proper sequence, of improvements to be made, and in a manner best suited to the city's financial resources."—A. E. K. Bunnell.

### LIKE FATHER LIKE SON.

Those who have had a lengthy experience in Canadian municipal affairs will remember the yeoman service of ex-Mayor Ellis to the city of Ottawa. Though Mr. Ellis is now engaged in the larger field of provincial affairs as Director of Housing and Superintendent of Municipalities for Ontario his son, in the person of Controller M. Ellis, is, in that field that ex-Mayor Ellis made essentially his own, keeping up the family reputation in the capital of Canada. Controller Ellis, of course, is a very young man but already he has shown something of the thoroughness that characterizes his father. As controller in charge of the finances of the city young Ellis is showing the wisdom of a born financier, though he is a lawyer by profession. He is evidently not lacking in the gift of speech as witness his delightful little address at the luncheon tendered to the executive of the U. C. M. last month, when he playfully told a story against his colleague, Controller Champagne, while the old campaigner himself looked beamingly on the son of his old friend and colleague. Municipal government is surely coming into its own when the sons are taking up the mantle laid aside by the fathers.

### THE U. C. M. CONVENTION.

The Union of Canadian Municipalities is to hold its convention this year in the city of Ottawa on July 27-28-29, when papers and addresses on subjects affecting the municipal life of the Dominion will be dealt with by the best authorities that can be secured. The executive is going further this year to make the convention a success by providing all the means possible for the delegates to have little chats one with the other. After all the greatest value of a convention is not in papers by experts but in the opportunity given to those in attendance to meet men face to face who have similar difficulties to their own. And what municipal man is there that hasn't a problem? The more serious he takes his work the more problems he has, and the fact that he will be able to talk with municipal men from whom he can get some pointers is always a great incentive to attend a gathering of his kind. But in receiving knowledge he is also bestowing knowledge to others, for the best pointers one can get on any subject is from the experience of others, particularly in municipal administration which is ever changing to suit the exigencies of the time.

The convention is for three days, and from all accounts the executive intend that the full three days are taken up, for every municipal subject worth while will be studied and discussed.

### "TRANSACTIONS."

#### An Instructive Publication.

The University of Toronto Engineering Society has just published the first issue of its "Transactions" which is really a continuation of "Applied Science" that was stopped in 1916 because of the war. "Transactions" contains a number of excellent papers by good writers, including "Reconstruction," by Dean Mitchell; "Switchboards," by S. E. M. Henderson; "Engineer-Human Factor," by Wills McLachlan; "Fire Prevention," by A. L. Irwin; "Power Plant Instruments," by E. G. Bailey; "The Testing and Research Laboratories of the Ontario Hydro," by W. P. Dobson.