

The Canadian Municipal Journal

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

City of Montreal and
United States \$2.25

Canada, Great Britain
and Countries in
Postal Union \$2.00

Published Monthly by

The Canadian Municipal Journal Co., Limited,
Coristine Building, Montreal

FREDERICK WRIGHT, Editor

Any article appearing in these pages may be reproduced provided full credit is given to the Journal.

VOL. XVII.

MONTREAL, DECEMBER, 1921

NO. 12

CONTENTS

Editorials:

The Washington Conference.....	327
W. D. Lighthall	328
Community Singing	328
Freedom of London	329
Junior Municipal Councils.....	329

T. L. Church, M.P.....	329
The Quebec Union	329
Mayor McGuire	329
Municipal Affairs in B. C. (Jack Loutet).....	330
Forest Protection	331

The Washington Conference

The International conference now taking place in Washington for the purpose of bringing about the limitation of armaments may or may not be successful in itself, but the fact that the civilized nations of the world, through their accredited representatives, are actually discussing means towards that end is a strong indication of the desire of all peoples to end war. The Canadian representative, Sir Robert Borden, in a recent statement well epitomized the situation as follows:

"Continued competition in armaments assuredly brings nations to the path that leads to the ultimate disintegration of existing civilization, the foundations of which have already been rudely shaken. How can it be otherwise if, to those who ask for bread, civilization gives armaments? In the boundary between Canada and the United States, unfortified for more than a century, save by a common trust which has never been violated, and in the intimate friendship which that just confidence has maintained and strengthened, we have given to humanity a lesson which ought never to be forgotten in the determination of this supreme question."

To illustrate the cost of armaments we may take an up-to-date battleship which costs approximately \$40,000,000, or the price of 8,000 cottages at a cost of \$5,000 each... Surely the piling up of armaments is not only an absurdity on the face of it but an insult to the intelligence and common sense of the common people of the civilized nations. Fortunately the world's press has taken a strong stand in the conference. Not content with merely reporting the proceedings, publications of every kind are leading their readers to think only of one

thing, and that is peace, and no delegate dare take any other stand because of the publicly expressed opinion.

The British Empire, with a larger responsibility than any other two nations combined, has through its spokesman accepted the principles laid down by President Harding and Secretary Hughes of the United States, and so, too, has France, the principal sufferer by the war; but if those principles are to be lived up to, every citizen must so back them up that every time the jingoistic spirit is shown in any country it will be immediately quenched by public opinion through a responsible press.

Thanks to the understanding with the United States, we in Canada have no costly armaments to keep up in normal times, and possibly if it had not been for the late war which brought home to each one of us its terrible cost, we would hardly appreciate what disarmament means. But in the Old Country, where the per capita cost of armaments is the biggest of all countries, disarmament has a significant meaning to the taxpayer.

Civilization to-day stands for something more than huge armies and navies. The war has taught all peoples its futility in securing national happiness or even in guaranteeing natural safety, and no one knows this better than our late enemies. The common sense of mankind is beginning to realize that arbitration between nations is more dignified than war—and infinitely cheaper.

How can we ever hope to overcome our housing shortage as long as we allow fire to destroy one-fourth of the buildings we build every year? The answer is—Build so it won't burn.