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National Municipal League

The 19th Annual Convention of the National Municipal League is to be held in Toronto, November 12th to 15th.

Full particulars can be had from the Secretary, Mr. Clinton Rogers Woodruff, 703 North American Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

Providing Sanitary Conveniences at the suggestion of the Health department

The City of Toronto, at the suggestion of the Health Department has decided upon what is evidently considered quite a new idea. That is, for the City to instal sanitary conveniences in houses whose owners cannot afford the immediate outlay on the Local Improvement system, that is by the City paying the cost, and the owners repaying to the City in annual payments extending over so many years.

As a matter of fact, the idea is by no means a new one, as the City of Winnipeg has had the plan in operation for several years.

Winnipeg has a wisely policy of sending its permanent officials to the different Conventions in which they are interested, and in this way Dr. Douglas, the Medical Health Officer, has been able to keep abreast of all the developments of public hygiene, and inaugurate the latest ideas for his City.

Preservation of Civic Landmarks

The Antiquarian Society of Montreal is making an interesting suggestion to the City Authorities, who are just now altering the surface of the historic Champs de Mars.

It is to leave a permanent park about 4 feet wide on the surface along the lines of the old French fortifications, the remains of which underlie the surface. The covering which will soon be put upon the ground, can, without cost, have introduced in it some light colored material such as broken marble which would give a band showing the outlines of the picturesque old bastions of the fortification walls which lie underneath, and these marks would be one of the most popular and interesting of the tourist sights in the City. The exact lines can be given by the Antiquarian Society.

Slums Neglected

The failure of public health work in Canada has been due to the Governments not taking more direct control in administration. The Governments see that the factories, where the wage-earner spend about one-third of the week day, is sanitary, but do not concern themselves with the home where he lives most of the time and where the wife and children live all the time. The Governments also carefully look after the school where the children spend a small part of their time, but let them live in slums for the rest and greater part.

The state also provides a sanitary home for the criminal, but does not take any steps to prevent his fall; and takes no care of the housing of the honest artisan.

The present Health Laws are inadequate, but those in the West are more thorough than in the rest of the Dominion. British Columbia is the only Province that has regulations with regard to Town Planning.

I would say that no government can justify its existence unless it carefully considers the important question of Town Planning and enacts a law with ample and adequate regulations for dealing with unsanitary houses of all classes of the community, and for conferring power on city, town and village municipalities whereby they may not only control, but in a measure direct, town and suburb planning. Dr. Hodgetts, Medical Adviser to the Commission of Conservation.