

his neighbor has a small office separate from his house; he escapes for very much less, when in reality he should contribute equally with his neighbor.

A commission could be appointed who would deal with every phase of the business assessment, properly classifying all and fix the rates.

There are other questions I would like to touch upon but this being a broad question, it takes considerable space to properly place before your readers just what I would like to impress upon them, At some future date I will take up the matter again with a view to getting others interested in this important matter.

The writer is endeavoring to form an Assessors' Association to be backed by the municipality sending a representative to the convention. Such an association representing the cities and towns, would be a power towards getting better assessment and other laws. The assessor being in touch and conversant as to how the law applies, is the better judge as to what should be the law and how it should be applied.

Thanking you for the space in your valuable paper,  
I remain, &c.

J. P. Freek.

Assessment Commissioner, St. Thomas.

#### WHY DO MUNICIPALITIES STAND STILL?

It is not because they do not wish to grow. Nearly every town and village has a sleepy desire to expand and grow big and outrival its neighbors. People there would like to see industries coming, the town's limits expanding and property values increasing, but of course with no effort on their part whatever. Then why do all the municipalities in Ontario where a future for manufacturers is assured, and where opportunities are so numerous, not enlarge as would a well regulated and healthful business in times of prosperity? Apart from natural advantages the reason and solution lie with the citizens themselves. In most instances those who could and should help to build up the place in which they reside, and which holds their business interests, are either too engrossed in their own affairs or else entirely indifferent. Take town after town, and municipality after municipality in Ontario and this is found to be the case. The growth of the town is found to be in direct proportion to the public spiritedness of the men who mould opinion and who take lead in public affairs. This might be laid down as an axiom and holds in the case of Ontario towns today. Since our last issue we had an excellent opportunity of finding out how interested the various towns in the province were in their own growth. In the November issue an editorial reference regarding United States manufacturing firms intending to come to this country manufacture was supplemented by a post card sent out to about fifty cities and towns calling attention to the fact. Of these, at the time of going to press, thirty-seven showed no interest in the subject whatever. This being all the more surprising since the industry in question was not looking for a bonus. It was noticed of the thirteen who did reply the quickest and most business-like responses were from places having a live Board of Trade. Before the issue had been many hours off the press and before the card calling attention to the opportunity was sent out, the secretary of the Board of Trade of one of the most progressive and enterprising towns in Canada was in our office to get full information. The spirit displayed by the Board of Trade in this instance has been characteristic of its policy for years past. The result is that a manufacturing town has been built up, the result of the citizens own efforts, that for stability and general beauty is not to be surpassed anywhere in Canada.

In direct opposition to this spirit was that shown by another town whose reply came in about two weeks after

their attention had been drawn to the matter. It was answered by the town clerk, who, of course had to bring it before the town council before even making a reply or asking for further information. Had there been in that town a lively up-to-date Board of Trade the matter could have been taken up immediately, the information secured, and if necessary, a representative sent to interview the manufacturers in duestion. The local newspaper comes out announcing the fact that the town is just the place for that industry and then everybody falls asleep and no further action is taken.

The town whose Board of Trade secretary was first to seek the information has a splendid opportunity of securing this industry. The leading men of this latter town have at all times joined hand in hand for the town's welfare, have sought at all times to build up the town in every legitimate manner possible and have themselves created for the most part the town's many promising and flourishing enterprises.

About two years ago the town of Welland hardly realized it had a future. One happy day in the town's history the town folk woke up to the fact of the town's possibilities and realized its advantages for industrial concerns. They lost no time in getting together and within eighteen months worked with such success as to create a record in industrial progress in Canada.

The citizens of many a town may say, and it is often heard by those unwilling to make an effort in their town's behalf, that inasmuch as we have nothing to offer, what is the use of trying to compete with places having greater natural advantages. If those same citizens spent only a fraction of the time now spent gossiping in the back room of the local drug store in planning for the town's future and in themselves creating industries they would have no complaint to make regarding their town's progress and development.—From the Decemnr issue of *Canadian Machinery*.

#### CITY HOUSE-CLEANING

The Springfield *Republican* recently contained an editorial descriptive of the city housecleaning efforts of the local organizations which are affiliated with the American Civic Association, in which it made the following comments:

"Once upon a time all reforms began in the East and swept onward toward the wild west, which wasn't supposed to know it needed reforming. Now the order of things is reversed. Take the subject of city housecleaning. Boston and New York look as dirty as they like and feel pleased to have it so; it is Denver, Chicago, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and New Orleans that have a regular spring cleaning on a day set by the mayor, when streets, alleys, back yards and sidewalks are cleaned, together with any other thing of the kind that needs it. Denver, a year ago, at the call of Mayor Speer, thoroughly cleaned all its down town streets and alleys, painted all poles used in its fire and police systems, placed new and improved refuse cans at street and alley crossings, and private citizens looked over their own property and neighborhood, to the great improvement in health, orderliness and taste. Mayor Dunne of Chicago selected May 7, and called upon householders to gather up tin cans and other rubbish at the end of each lot in readiness for garbage collectors to take it to the dump; he requested school principals and teachers to get the school boys to clean up the vacant lots; fifty policemen were appointed to remind householders of the city regulations concerning the disposal of waste; the superintendent of streets organized his men so that the whole city was served with collecting wagons to take away rubbish."