

### THE NECESSITY FOR HOME OWNING.

The Shah of Persia, once asked a wealthy Englishman if his king was not afraid to have one so rich near the throne. No ruler in Persia, he said, would be safe with such riches in the possession of a subject. The Englishman said it was not so in England. On the contrary, he said, the more rich men there were about the throne the safer the king felt.

This is true of society at large. No man can feel entirely safe in the possession of his property as long as there are people who have no property at all. The man with a stake in the country is the man who will uphold its laws and defend its institutions.

It behoves property owners, therefore, to see to it that property owning is made easy, in order that it may be more common. If any owners are to be safe from anarchy and revolution, all men must become owners. Hence the necessity of encouraging the acquisition of property on the part of poor people. Make it easy for them to get it and easy for them to keep it. That is the way to make good citizens.

Two things stand in the way to prevent the general ownership of property. The high price of land, and the heavy taxes on improvements. The would-be home builder has to pay so much for a building site, and it costs so much to keep up the property after he has built, that many who with a little encouragement would own their own homes, continue as tenants.

All consumers are tax payers whether or not they own property; but when they pay taxes on shoes, for instance, that the manufacturers and dealers have added to the price they do not realize it, and do not receive credit for it. They

are called non-tax payers and rank lower in public estimation than citizens who pay direct taxes.

There is an air about the property owner that finds expression in his deportment, and begets a certain state of mind. Evolution he favors, for he believes in progress; but revolution he shuns. If those who own property therefore would save themselves, they must aid all others in acquiring property. And the simplest way to do this is to remove the tax burdens upon the wealth produced by labor and capital, and concentrate them upon monopoly and privilege.

### THE TALE OF THE CITY OFFICIAL.

Once upon a time there was a young man who, having read his Plato and his Aristotle, decided with Pope that "the proper study for mankind is man." He therefore entered the service of his home town and for twenty years he worked hard and studied, in return for a wage about equivalent to that of a steam-fitter's helper. At last his efforts began to bear fruit; his dreams of community service materialized in the form of a great municipal undertaking destined to bring comfort and happiness to his fellow citizens. He persuaded the city council to authorize the undertaking and at last the work was under way. So the man — no longer young — went forth upon the city streets to stretch his tired limbs and forget the cares of office. As he rested in the public park he overheard the idle talk of several fellow townsmen and the talk was concerning his great undertaking. He knew the work was good and so he listened, and this is what he heard about himself: "Clever duck! Wonder how much rake-off he got."—New York Municipal Reference Library Notes.

### OUR MUNICIPALITIES AND LABOUR—Continued.

#### Police Unions

St. John, N.B. Montreal, Que. Quebec, Que. London, Ont. Toronto, Ont. Winnipeg, Man. Edmonton, Alta. Vancouver, B.C. Victoria, B.C.

#### Firemen's Unions Were Established.

St. John, N.B. Hull, Que. Montreal, Que. Three Rivers, Que. Fort William, Ont. Guelph, Ont. Hamilton, Ont. London, Ont. Ottawa, Ont. Peterborough, Ont. St. Catharines, Ont. Toronto, Ont. Windsor, Ont. St. Boniface, Man. Winnipeg, Man. Moose Jaw, Sask. Regina, Sask. Saskatoon, Sask. Calgary, Alta. Edmonton, Alta. Vancouver, B.C. Victoria, B.C.

#### There are Trades Unions of Miscellaneous Municipal Workers.

At Moncton, N.B. St. John, N.B. Montreal, Que. Hamilton, Ont. London, Ont. Ottawa, Ont. St. Thomas, Ont. Toronto, Ont. Brandon, Man. St. Boniface, Man. Winnipeg, Man. Moose Jaw, Sask. Regina, Sask. Saskatoon, Sask. Calgary, Alta. Edmonton, Alta. Lethbridge, Alta. Medicine Hat, Alta. Burnaby, B.C. New Westminster, B.C. North Vancouver, B.C. Victoria, B.C.

#### The Affiliations of the Foregoing Unions Are Indicated By the Following Figures

	Police.	Firemen.	General.	Total
International ... ..	17	7		24
Non-International ... ..	8	5	23	36
Independent ... ..	1		3	4
	9	22	33	64

Mr. Acland referred at some length to the dispute which had arisen between the municipality of Toronto and its police. The dispute had been eventually referred to a Royal Commission appointed by the Government of the Province of Ontario, the Commission consisting of Chief Justice Sir Wm. Meredith, Chairman, Mr. S. R. Parsons, Toronto, a representative of employers, and Mr. James T. Gunn, Toronto, a leading representative of trades unionism.

The speaker abstained from expressing any view with respect to the desirability of policemen and firemen becoming members of a trades union, but strongly urged that if these classes of workers abstained voluntarily or were restrained by law from being trades unionized, other means should be provided whereby grievances which must inevitably arise from time to time might be dealt with. It was unreasonable that these particular classes should re-

main apart from all other classes of labour unless alternative machinery for the adjustment of disputes was provided. This was a subject which, the speaker urged, might very properly receive the close attention of the Convention. Whether such action might be most advantageously taken by concerted effort on the part of leading municipalities or by means of provincial legislation were points on which the speaker did not desire to express an opinion, though suggesting that along these lines of thought means might be found of improving the present situation.

Reference was made by the speaker also to a Commission appointed jointly by the Governments of the Dominion and the Provinces and which, meeting at Ottawa from April 26 to May 1, 1920, had dealt with the subject of the uniformity of labour laws. The Commission had been appointed in pursuance of a recommendation which had been made by the National Industrial Conference meeting at Ottawa in September, 1919. The Board comprised three sections, one consisting of representatives of the Government (Dominion or Provincial), a second consisting of representatives of workmen. The Commission had referred to a Committee the duty of examining existing legislation of the Dominion and Provinces with respect to industrial disputes, and this Committee in its report had included the following recommendations, namely:

"That federal legislation should be held to apply to public utilities under the control of a Province or municipality or other public or private authority.

"That, whereas in some cases provincial legislation has been enacted respecting industrial disputes which applies to all occupations giving rise to the relations of employer and employee and which therefore includes policemen and firemen, it should be provided that all disputes affecting policemen or firemen in all parts of Canada should come within the jurisdiction of the federal law."

The recommendations of this Committee might also, the speaker observed, be of value to the Convention in any consideration it might feel disposed to give to the subject under discussion.

The speaker described the Whitley Council system which had come into existence in Great Britain in many industries, and had been extended to municipal workers in many cities and groups of cities. Conditions of municipal life and government differed materially of course in Canada and Great Britain, but the Whitley Council system was deserving of close study as a possible solution of some phases of the difficulties under discussion.