

British Sailors' Relief Fund

We congratulate Mr. M. P. Fennell, jnr., the secretary of the British Sailors' Fund, on the success of his recent whirlwind coast to coast campaign with the idea of enthusing the people of Canada with the objects of the fund—namely to show in tangible form that Canada is grateful to the seamen of the Royal navy and the mercantile marine who have been, and are, sacrificing their lives that we may sleep in comfort. Their work, particularly on the mine sweepers, is not spectacular, nor is it even decently paid, but it is nerve racking and dangerous, and during the long winter months in the North Sea, miserably cold. Yet these men have been keeping their watch day and night, for over 2 years. It can only be a deep sense of duty that holds them to their job uncomplaining, and it was a kindly thought on the part of Mr. W. G. Ross, of the Montreal Harbour Board, to start the fund that gives the people of this country an opportunity to compensate in some little way those silent heroes and protectors of our shores for as Mayor Waugh of Winnipeg said at the Manitoba meeting: "Not a

Canadian soldier could have reached the shores of France if it had not been for the magnificent work of the British Navy" and we might add that if it had not been for this same navy Canada would have been invaded long ago with all the horrors attendant to German occupation.

The fund, which has for its high water mark, \$500,000, has already reached over \$200,000 and we trust the larger sum will soon be even exceeded. What we are particularly pleased to record is that much of Mr. Fennell's success is due to the support of the mayors and councils of the cities he visited. This additional responsibility to the already large demands on the energies of our local executives being taken up so enthusiastically is indeed evidence of the spirit of municipal Canada, and we have every confidence that Mr. Fennell's next tour, which will be in Ontario, will meet with the same success that he obtained in the rest of Canada. The fund itself is a noble one and the organizers worthy of the responsibility they have so unselfishly taken upon themselves.

Ontario and Municipal Preparedness

The President of the Ontario Municipal Association (Mr. Arthur Bunnell, City Treasurer of Brantford) in his address before the recent convention of the association took a stand that was illuminating as showing the spirit in Ontario municipal circles towards the war with its aftermath of problems. He truly said that confidence had taken the place of the doubt (in some people's minds) of twelve months ago, but not just satisfied with striking the patriotic note the speaker brought home to his audience the opportunity and responsibility of the civic authorities in not only hastening the successful consummation of the war but in preparation for the great peace of victory.

"The war has exalted," said the president, "our vision and broadened our outlook and there is no field that is more potent with opportunity and with responsibility in the future than that connected with municipal administration. Canada has taken upon herself an immense burden of debt, both nationally, provincially and municipally and the present war is adding to it by millions every month. Canada is a country of great resources but we must see to it that conditions are such that every man has an opportunity of obtaining a living for himself and his children under fair and decent conditions."

These words are balm to our soul for have we not been preaching this sermon for months and now that we have municipal leaders taking up the same text and handling it so well as does Mr. Bunnell we have confidence in our mission. But Mr. Bunnell does not confine himself to generalities. After

stating the fact that many municipalities in taking up war burdens have taxed themselves to the limit allowed by law, and that with the increasing demand for public improvements there is no possibility of any reduction, he very pertinently states that "Councils must bend their energies . . .

"to creating conditions that will allow of more
"production. Roads and systems of transpor-
"tation must be established and methods de-
"vised to bring producer and consumer togeth-
"er. Economy must be taught as a public
"virtue. Vocational education must become
"part of our public school curriculum and
"everything possible must be done to enable
"the rate payer to produce more and to earn
"more."

Here the speaker gave the crux of the situation. But how are councils to create better productive conditions and how can the councils bring producer and consumer together? The answer to our minds is by sympathetic organization. That is while each of the councils should encourage and boom those industries indigenous to the neighbourhood there should be an organizing body for the whole of the municipalities of Canada. Such a body has been created by the Union of Canadian Municipalities at its last convention and this journal, as the official organ of the Union has already started to gather data so as to enable a definite policy to be persued. As stated in our last issue when ready these plans and data will be submitted to the city and town councils. The great idea that must be inculcated into the minds of the civic authorities of this Dominion is preparedness, preparedness and preparedness.