

NOVEL FEATURE IN MUNICIPAL CONVENTION.

The American Society for Municipal Improvements at its convention held in St. Louis, Oct. 12-15, introduced a novel feature in the form of round table discussions for technical matters. The society reserved half of the main dining-room of the Planters Hotel, which was set up with round tables, in the centre of each of which was a sign designating some particular subject of importance, such as wood block paving, water purification, city lighting, sanitation, etc. The tables were in use for breakfast and luncheon during all of the four days, and each was presided over by an expert with a national reputation in a particular line. The delegates changed from table to table during the meeting and joined in the discussion of the particular subject scheduled, thus facilitating the exchange of ideas.

Such a feature was decidedly a good innovation in interesting the delegates in technical subjects, and its success should be a spur to the municipal unions of Canada to do something along the same lines.

HOUSING IN GREAT BRITAIN.

For the twelve months ending March 31 the loans sanctioned to local authorities in Great Britain amounted to \$208,424,215.

MUNICIPAL AERODROMES.

Under the Air Navigation Bill now before the British Parliament, local authorities will be given the power "to acquire or hold lands for the purpose of aerodromes."

OFFICIAL COURTESY A DEFINITE GAIN.

Courtesy is a distinct asset. Its use inflicts no hardship upon anyone; in the long run it is easier to be courteous than to be overbearing. It is easily within the power of the directors of departments, and of others in authority at the City Hall, so to train the habits of their subordinates that the methods of modern business in this respect can be followed. A frank recognition of the undoubted right of the public to considerate treatment in its own offices would go far toward developing that sense of local pride which is at the heart of true civic spirit.—Philadelphia Bureau of Information.

COMMUNITY CANNING IN SASKATOON.

With the assistance of two home economics experts from the provincial university and the Department of Agriculture, several hundred women belonging to the Daughters of the Empire are operating a community canning kitchen in Saskatoon. Tons of perishable vegetables and fruits raised by the Municipal Parks Board, the Rotary Club and other civic organizations to reduce the city's consumption of food stuffs during war time were preserved, for distribution along with quantities of potatoes, turnips, carrots and other vegetables stored in the city's root houses for sale at a nominal charge during the winter season.

The project was not only endorsed by the city council when the scheme was started, in 1918, which gave the use of a large curling rink adjacent to the municipal power house, and granted permission to use the exhaust steam from the power plant, but \$200 was allowed from the city's funds for the purchase of canning apparatus. One of the features is a playground at the rink for children to amuse themselves while their mothers can the family supply of winter sweets and greens.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN SASKATCHEWAN.

Five co-operative associations in Saskatchewan last year handled a turnover of over \$300,000. The number of associations in the Province handling live-stock increased from 23 to 35, and the number of cars of live-stock handled jumped from 241 to over 700.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND CONTROL LOCAL EDUCATION.

In England, primary and secondary education are controlled by the local authorities, subject to the supervision and control of an education board presided over by a minister responsible to parliament.

HOUSING IN ONTARIO.

According to a report issued by Mr. J. A. Ellis, Director of Housing for the province, Ontario's position regarding housing is as follows:—

"1. Seventy-two municipalities borrowed money from the province for housing purposes. (a) Total amount requested for loans by the municipalities, \$15,000,000. (b) Total amount approved of for appropriations to the various municipalities, \$10,629,000.

"2. Up to 31st December, 1919, 1,184 houses were constructed. About 1,000 have been erected or are being erected this year, making a total of about 2,200 to date.

"3. Appropriations made by the Dominion and the province have been completely exhausted. The following municipalities are proceeding under "The Municipal Housing Act, 1920" (these municipalities issue their own debentures, guaranteed by the province):

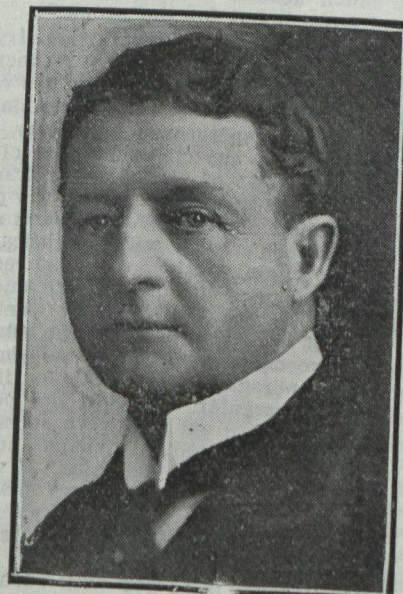
"Fergus, Ford City, Chatham, Kitchener, Peterborough, Sarnia, Walkerville, Windsor."

ADVANTAGES OF POLICE SIGNAL SYSTEM.

Realizing the lack of police protection to the people of Webster and Dudley (Mass.) through the absence of an adequate police signal system, the Chamber of Commerce recommended to the Chief of Police the installation of a signal light and telephone on the main street where it would be easily accessible at all times. The chief welcomed the suggestion, and a marine signal light was accordingly purchased and placed on a post in the centre of the town. A special telephone was installed on the same post and arrangements were made with the telephone company whereby the operator receiving a call for a policeman would immediately switch on the signal light and plug in one the same line. A police officer is always within a short distance of this light and can answer it immediately through the special telephone.

In a test case by newspaper men, an officer answered the telephone in less than two minutes from the time the newspaper men filed the call.

This is really only a temporary measure, but it shows the advantage of a police signal system over the old method of calling up several stores in an effort to find an officer. Specifications and prices have already been secured for the installation of an up-to-date system which will require a man to be on duty at the central office at all times. The great usefulness of this light has impressed upon the citizens the value of having a special system of lights and regulation police boxes installed all over the town.



SIR ADAM BECK, ex-Mayor of London,
Now Chairman of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission.