

so that they might take up work at once, congenial and independent. It provides for pensions for both the man and his family, and while there might be differences of opinion as to the amount or character of the pensions, the fact that such a system will soon be in force will relieve the anxiety of many a wounded soldier. The commission has received the assurance of many of the municipalities that they will co-operate in the carrying out of the policy, but it seems to me that every local council should do its share in putting into practice the recommendations of the commission. But the councils should go further. It is our duty to recognize in no uncertain terms our sense of gratefulness and pride in the achievements of our soldier boys, and in something more than pensions. We must feel that it was not just the earning power of the soldier's life—namely, a dollar a day—that has sent the hundreds of thousands of Canadians to the fields of Flanders. We all know that it was the spirit of national pride that sent them across the seas, and that same shining light of patriotism must be held before them on their return home, and I would repeat the suggestion made by the Canadian Municipal Journal last November; that a civic reception be given to every soldier on his return to his home town. Such a public recognition by the elected local authorities will at least be some recompense for the sacrifice made by every man who has gone overseas, and it will be something for his children and family to remember with pride. I am pleased to state that many of the councils have already passed resolutions favorable to the idea, but we want every municipal council in Canada, both urban and rural, not only to pass a resolution, but to live up to it. That resolution should read as follows: "That this council binds itself to give a public reception to all soldiers who enlisted for overseas service and who are citizens of this city, and that we will do all in our power to see that suitable employment or pensions are given to the men."

I would ask that this convention adopt the resolution.

Another Municipal Responsibility is That of Encouraging the Development of Industries, so That Real Progress Can be Made.

At the present moment manufacturing Canada is very busy, though handicapped for labor; but the big industry — the making of munitions — cannot last much longer. This means when peace does come many factories will be idle and over 200,000 men and women thrown out of work. It is true some will be absorbed in the normal industries but not many. This out of work army will be augmented by our own returned soldiers and a large industrial immigration, unless such are kept out of the country. The burden of caring for this army will fall upon the communities. The question comes then what are the local authorities going to do about it? How can they meet the situation? It is evident that if the problem is not met in some practical way chaos and poverty will be the result which in turn will have a very direct effect on public progress. In the past industrial and manufacturing Canada have been handicapped by the lack of capital which has meant the export of sadly too

much of our raw material and our Journal has already urged that the vast sums of money now in the banks, much of it made from munitions making, should be kept in the country for development purposes, particularly in the encouragement of new industries, and in the helping along of our factories. I believe that by intelligent co-operation this can be done and no one can do it so well as our municipal authorities because of their practical knowledge of local conditions. One suggestion made by the Journal is that a special committee be appointed whose business would be to ask each council to have an inventory of local factories made, and to get in touch with the Federal Department of Commerce with the object of securing the results of the recent investigations which were carried on to find out the opportunities for Canadian manufacturers in different parts of the world. By this means each municipality would not only get a line on its own factories but the opportunities for the trade expansion of the district.

This does not mean that individual effort must be curbed—rather it should be encouraged—but we must eradicate that lack of sense of public responsibility begotten of individual selfishness so strongly marked in the United States, and which up to the breaking out of the war was fast growing in this country. Now that Canada has found her soul in the sacrifice of her sons the elimination of this bugbear of national and municipal progress should be comparatively easy, but each one of us must do our part.

Neither does the boosting of local industries by the council mean that undue competition will ensue as between city and city—or town and town—for the reason that with Canada's natural resources divided up as it were geographically the chief local industries will economically be indigenous to the district resources. And if I may I would like to point out here that the utilizing of her vast resources by the means of manufacture is just as natural to Canada as agriculture—in fact they should go hand in hand.

I note that the idea of the municipal council encouraging the development of industries has been taken up in the Old Country, the English Municipal Journal suggesting the appointment of special industrial or trade committees made up of officials having commercial experience who should be given a free hand in developing the business of the town by booming the industrial facilities. In short a kind of publicity campaign. The article in question finishes with a very apt phrase, "It is a leading principle of commercial enterprise that good times don't come, they have to be fetched."

Many of our Canadian cities have been built up with clever publicity—though some of the blatant advertisements one has seen at times are neither convincing nor conducive to civic dignity. After all the best advertisement for a Canadian city is good government. But the point we have to consider for the moment is how best to keep our workers busy after the war for we must remember that individual prosperity means better housing better streets and a more contented community and my suggestion of a strong committee being appointed to study the matter of industries from the municipal viewpoint I would commend to this convention.