

THE LATE SECRETARY-TREASURER OF VERDUN.

It is with regret that we record the death of Mr. George A. Ward, Secretary-Treasurer of the City of Verdun, P.Q., who after twenty years of service, died from an attack of heart failure. The City Council as a special mark of sympathy took charge of the funeral, which was also attended by the Masonic and Oddfellow orders.

NEED OF BETTER URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

The importance of promoting more scientific methods of rural as well as urban development is engaging the attention of prominent groups of citizens in all belligerent countries. It is generally agreed that recovery after the war in each nation will be the more rapid in proportion as more efficient methods are applied to secure the increase of production. Canada has never failed to apply the doctrine of Adam Smith to incite the natural efforts of the producers by means of promoting a condition of freedom amongst its citizens and encouraging the settlement of land by the real users of the land. Unfortunately, however, land speculation has been so little controlled and the planning and laying out the land for economic use has been so much neglected, that production has been hampered and bad social conditions have grown up. Incitement to natural effort by means of mere ownership of the land has proved inadequate because of these deficiencies—and the quality of the natural effort has been impaired as a result of overcrowding and bad sanitation in the cities and isolation and poverty in the country.—Thomas Adams.

It was estimated in 1907, after a full enquiry, that the annual average loss caused in Great Britain by each rat was \$1.80, in France \$1.00, and in Denmark \$1.20.

In Canadian cities 28 per cent of the buildings in business districts are of frame or brick veneer, whilst in residential districts the proportion is 69 per cent.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN, ETC.—Continued

tion that it must not dispose of it for any purpose outside the general scope of the objects defined in its incorporating instrument, whether it be act of parliament or memorandum of association. That income is created entirely by itself and may fluctuate all the way from large profits in a good year to less than nothing in a poor one. Within the wide limits referred to that income is entirely within the control of the company. It can regulate how much shall be appropriated to salaries of officials and other expenses, how much shall go to the shareholders, how much laid to rest. If it sees fit it can entirely withhold dividend, even though earned. It can at will reduce salaries or dispense with officials entirely. In fact the only portion of its income which it cannot dispose of as it pleases is that required to meet absolute obligations, such as the interest on a bonded debt or a mortgage or the rent of leased premises. Contrast with this the extreme rigidity necessarily imposed on the civic corporation by the very nature of its existence. As its only income is that which it is authorized by law to demand from its own members it follows not only that the amount which it can demand must be strictly limited, but that the purposes to which it can be applied must be specified with equal strictness and set out in exact detail. Obviously also it cannot be allowed either to apply the money so raised to any other purposes than that for which it was taken from the members, or to apply the money taken for one of those purposes to any other—appropriations, must be kept sacred. So also it is plain that the money taken from the members for one year for their benefit cannot justifiably be used for the benefit of the members in a succeeding year, and consequently any unexpended balances should be disposed of in some way for the benefit of both present and future members—of which the most obvious is the sinking fund for the redemption of civic debt. As the purpose of the corporation vary little from year to year it also follows that the civic revenue must remain more or less constant, or rather that the proportions in which it is allotted among the different services must remain about the same. A civic corporation usually has a large and steadily increasing debt, the interest on which is of course a fixed charge. The principal civic salaries are equally a charge usually fixed by law, instead of being left to the discretion of the company or its directors.

THE ROTARY BALLOT.

GEO. S. WILLIAMS.

The city of Calgary, Alberta, has adopted a novel form of ballot to be used at the municipal elections, which, for want of a better name might be called the Rotary Ballot. The old form of ballot on which the names of the candidates were arranged in alphabetical order led to unintentional discrimination against the man who happened to have a name beginning with a letter well down in the alphabet.

If he were well known or had many friends that might not be so manifest. But if he were a new man it always told against him.

At the last election in Calgary when proportional representation was used for the first time, this was particularly felt. It was hard to get the people to fully understand that instead of helping to elect six or eight aldermen as previously, they were only helping to elect one man. Except in the case of the labor candidate, Ald. Broatch, who headed the poll, the different classes were not distinctly out to elect any one candidate. The result was that the first candidate that seemed to suit received the first choice and they had the idea that so long as they placed a candidate in one of the first six places it did not matter. So that a man who was not particular which one of say four of the candidates received his first choice naturally gave it to the first man whose name appeared first on the list.

One of the defeated candidates, whose name begins with "W" asked for a change, suggesting the Australian method by which each name appeared in turn at the head of the ballot. It was thought this would entail extra expense, and so Ald. Broatch suggested the round robin form, which he had been accustomed to use in presenting petitions to the bosses. This idea was adopted and the ballot in future will partake of the form of a wagon wheel with the names of the candidates printed between the spokes. The numbers will be marked at the spoke and thus the returning officer can at a glance pick them out without having as in the old form to run his eye up and down the paper for each number.

The names will be arranged indiscriminately and the instructions will be printed at the top. But they might equally well be printed around the tire of the wheel.

CONSCRIPTION—MEN—WEALTH?

There has been one psychological effect of conscription, and even of the voluntary service which was often secured by the loud exhortations of patriotic voices. A whole generation of the young manhood of the British race has suddenly been confronted with the stern fact that their lives did not belong to themselves, but that each owed his life to the state. In the minds of those who have been asked to risk everything they hold dear, even life itself, arises the query whether others were willing to risk or give all they possessed. If the life, they argue, of each of us is at the disposal of the community, likewise should be the property of every one. When supporters of economic and social changes, whether soldiers or not, are told that they are meddling mischief-makers and that their programmes will assuredly fail, they will retort that even if they do fail, the failure will not cost, like the war, the lives of a whole generation of young men and that in the event of failure then some other alternative can after be tried. The average soldier has seen military enterprises undertaken with scanty hope of success, planned and risked by the staffs on a mere gamble without any particular consideration for the risks of the assaulting companies. When therefore he is warned that industrial experiments and economic reforms will involve grave danger of disturbing trade and upsetting credit, the protest will leave him very, very cold. He will be ready, if it offers hope of better things, to take a chance. The returned soldier is more than likely to invigorate and renovate the old civilian system by introducing an element of the dare-devil dash of war. Let our government remember this possibility.—The Veteran.

FEEDING CITY GARBAGE TO PIGS.

Information in regard to the disposal of city garbage by feeding to hogs will be sent by the Canada Food Board to all persons interested. This pamphlet explains the treatment of garbage from the time it leaves city hotels, residences and restaurants, etc., until fed to the hogs. It also contains additional information of interest to persons keeping hogs.