

An attempt is here made to state the position of the Government in relation to the City. The data for the discussion of a new agreement is collected. An attempt is also made to state certain principles which should form the basis of an agreement.

THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The obligation which should be assumed by the Dominion Government in regard to Ottawa are these:—

First:—The Government should pay its equitable share of the expenses incurred by the municipality in carrying on municipal government.

Second:—The Government may reasonably be expected to contribute in addition such sums as are necessary to make a Capital worthy of the nation.

It is convenient to deal first with the obligation last stated,—the obligation to the nation.

THE NATION'S CAPITAL.

Ottawa is a commercial and manufacturing City. If it were nothing more the development of the City might be left to the residents of Ottawa. Ottawa is more. It is the capital of the nation. This fact imposes on the Parliament of Canada a duty not to Ottawa, but to the people of Canada. In all great countries the spirit of the nation has found expression in the capital city. Further the national spirit of the people has been vivified and stimulated by the creation of a stately and magnificent capital. If Canada is to be a great nation the capital of Canada must in dignity and beauty be made worthy of a great people.

It is not for any citizen of Ottawa to dictate what money shall be expended by the people of Canada in the making of their capital. That must be left to the nation's representatives in Parliament. It may, however, be here properly pointed out that whatever of this character is done must be looked upon as done for the benefit of the whole nation and not as a favor done to or an expenditure made for the City of Ottawa. In the making of any new agreement it must also be recognized that any expenditure made in the embellishment and beautification of the Capital beyond what might reasonably be made in any ordinary city cannot fairly relieve the Government of its equitable obligation to bear its share of the ordinary municipal expenditures.

These considerations are of special importance by reason of the fact that there was completed in 1915 what was called a Federal Plan of the City of Ottawa and Vicinity. To this plan the language of the report of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia made in 1835 may be applied with little modification.

