

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES.

In electing Dr. Costello, Mayor of Calgary, to the presidency for the coming year, the Union of Alberta Municipalities have secured one of the best municipal men in the country. Essentially Western in his sympathies, he is yet broad enough to appreciate the difficulties of the East, and it is only men of this calibre that are wanted in the building up of the larger municipal life of Canada. Mayor Costello is second Vice-President of the Union of Canadian Municipalities.

CANADIAN PATRIOTIC FUND.

On another page we publish a letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Patriotic Fund, and a list of cities, whose Councils have subscribed out of city funds to the Patriotic Fund. We would like to have seen more names, for, in spite of hard times municipally, we do not believe that the ratepayers of any municipality would object to a generous contribution in their name. To this splendid fund last year about \$5,000,000 was collected, and for the coming year at least \$7,500,000 must be raised if the families of those fine fellows who have gone, or are going, to the front are to receive sufficient to keep them in anything like comfort. We understand too, that the generous private subscriptions of last year will not be so large again, meaning that public bodies must come to the rescue.

EX-MAYOR GRAHAM AIDS RECRUITING.

Ex-Mayor Graham, of London, and a past president of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, is doing splendid recruiting work in his district. Since the war commenced, Mr. Graham has addressed 150 meetings—many of which he organized as well—with tangible results. The Minister of Militia has offered him the command of a new regi-

ment, which he asked the ex-Mayor to raise. This offer has been accepted and we congratulate Lieut-Col. Graham on his promotion.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis has again sent out its annual record of work well done in the elimination of that scourge of consumption, which, if such an association did not exist, would make terrible headway in our midst. Last year we urged the Municipal Councils to take a keener interest in the movement, and the following extract, shows that as far as British Columbia is concerned, the municipalities have made a good start. In our opinion tuberculosis is largely the outcome of conditions that should be preventable, and it is because the public authorities have not taken the proper precautions in the past to eradicate the chief causes of the insidious disease, that they should let no opportunity pass to help on the splendid work of this purely voluntary society.

The excerpt reads as follows:

"At our last annual meeting it was suggested that we should appeal to the various municipalities and cities. It was felt that the Government had given generously and that, if appealed to, the municipalities would doubtless come to our assistance. With this end in view an appeal was made last October to every municipality and city in the Province some sixty-one in number, with the following result: The cities of Cranbrook, Kelowna, Merritt, Prince Rupert, Rossland, Vernon, Victoria and Vancouver, and the municipalities of Langley, South Vancouver, Kent, Coldstream, Penticton and North Vancouver, fourteen in all promised donations amounting to \$1,769.25, of which \$963.00 has been received to date, eleven councils promised to give the question further consideration and held the matter in abeyance, seventeen replied that they were unable to contribute, and from nineteen no replies were received. There is no question that the response from the municipalities would have been much larger had the financial conditions in our Province been much better, as all replies showed that the councils were in sympathy with our work."

Civic Improvement League & Union of Canadian Municipalities

COMMISSION OF CONSERVATION.

Ottawa, Nov. 22, 1915.

To the Editor,

In view of the excellent work which is done by the Union of Canadian Municipalities and its provincial branches, and also in view of the important and necessary place it fills in municipal life in Canada, I trust the impression will not go abroad that the proposed Civic Improvement League will in any way conflict with that organization. On the contrary, I hope it will be seen by everyone who is interested in civic affairs that a voluntary organization of citizens is needed to supplement the work of the Union and to co-operate with them in general civic improvement. The Union and its branches consist of men who are officially identified with municipal government, and is necessarily restricted in its membership. The proposed Civic Improvement League will have no restrictions on its membership and the majority of its members are unlikely to have any official connection with municipal bodies. As stated in the objects of the League, it is intended to promote the study and advancement of the best principles and methods, and to secure a general and effective interest in all municipal affairs. This means that its function will be primarily one of education, and that it is the general body of the citizens and not merely those in public life which it is sought to educate. That is work which is somewhat outside the scope of a body like the Union of Canadian Municipalities, but it is also work which that Union must desire to see performed, as the more the general body of the citizens understand civic affairs the more helpful they will be to those who are

engaged in carrying on public work in the right way. Thus the League will be complementary to the Union, and it will be very desirable that the two should co-operate with one another so as to secure the most effective results. In my statement to the Conference on the 19th inst., I said: "We need not overlap with the work of such an excellent institution as the Union of Canadian Municipalities necessarily restricted in its membership to those who compose Municipal Councils, but we may do much by co-operation with such an institution in advancing objects in which we have a common interest."

I think this remark requires emphasis in view of a possible misunderstanding. The work which the Union of Canadian Municipalities is doing cannot be done by any other body, and it would be a deplorable thing if its usefulness were to be impaired by any opposition. I am sure, therefore, that I am speaking for others who are identified with the new League, and certainly for myself, when I say that our desire is to join forces with the Union and to render them any assistance we can in improving municipal government in Canada.

If it is to be a success, I think the League will have to co-operate with existing municipal bodies as well as with the Union, and it must seek to inspire members of local authorities with confidence in its method. It is hoped, therefore, that those who have had experience as members of local authorities will co-operate with the League in the studies and investigations which it undertakes, and that it will be looked upon as an entirely impartial body, seeking only to promote the public welfare. I am, Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

THOMAS ADAMS, Town Planning Adviser.