

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES.

On another page we publish an article under the title of "Child Saving in Ontario" which is not only interesting to the reader but instructive as showing the splendid results of the work of one man who is in earnest. For twenty-four years Mr. J. J. Kelso, of Toronto has given of his best for the amelioration of the sad conditions under which too many of Canada's children live—or rather did until this lover of "Kiddies" took them under his efficient care. Through Mr. Kelso's instrumentality over 250 Children's Aid Societies have been established in Canada.

One other point in the article to which we would draw our reader's attention is the efficient legislation enacted in Ontario for dealing with the care of the child—legislation which would be well followed by other Provinces as the means of eliminating that carelessness of child life which is too much in evidence in this country.

THE LATE ALD. S. MORLEY WICKETT.

It was with a shock that his many friends heard of the death of Ald. S. Morley Wickett of Toronto, from a sharp attack of heart failure.

Dr. Wickett was rightly termed a "devoted and unselfish servant" of the Queen City; but he was something more. He was an inspiration to the many causes he was associated with for the inculcation of the ideals of Canadian citizenship. Gifted with a love for his fellow men he chose to give every moment he could spare from his business to their welfare. He even introduced his ideals into his workshop and proved to the world that business integrity and public honour could be worked together—one the counterpart of the other. Essentially an educated man (after graduating at Toronto University he studied at the Universities of Vienna, Liepsic, Berlin, Paris and Cambridge). Dr. Wickett was able to bring to bear on every question he touched, a culture that took it out of the mundane. This characteristic was particularly noticeable in Alderman Wickett's connection with municipal affairs. To him civic government was the basis upon which all government must be built, and if the foundation was rotten the superstructure, however good in itself, would soon topple over. Hence his splendid fight for civic reform. As a member of the Executive of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, his keen and analytical mind was invaluable in the elimination of the spurious in municipal government and his independence of thought gained him the respect of all. Had Morley Wickett lived he would have been in the vanguard of Canada's sons who are to solve her problems as a consequence of this war.

His last act was in accord with his life—always thinking and working for others—for at the time of his death he was assisting in the preparing of Xmas. gifts to send to his classmates who are serving across the seas, and with whom he would dearly have longed to be.

Canada has truly lost one of her best and our sympathies go out to his widow and children.

THE NEW COUNCILS

With the coming of the New Year, new municipal councils will come into being; most of them to face special difficulties as a consequence of the war. During the last year the councils generally have done splendidly. They have met their obligations in a way almost unbelievable twelve months ago. By economy on the one hand and a strong reliance in local patriotism on the other, the municipal debts have been paid and the many extra demands—such as the Patriotic Fund, Red Cross, etc.—have been more than met. But with the coming year greater obligations with lesser resources will have to be taken up that will mean a greater mental strain on the personnel of the local powers that be. The local public works must be carried on with very little money and preparation made for the new Canada that is bound to be the outcome of the war, so that civic administrations for 1916 will be thoroughly tested, both in capacity and perseverance. We have every confidence that the councils will rise to their opportunity of showing their worth to their respective municipalities, and our good wishes go out to them in their difficult programme.

ERRATIC CRITICISM.

We have been taken to task by the Editor of Canadian Finance for our statement in last month's issue that Judge Robson backed down in his criticism of Winnipeg's finances when confronted by Mayor Waugh. The Editor enclosed Judge Robson's address as published in his own excellent journal, together with his editorial comment. While we frankly recognize that the Judge—as a citizen—had a perfect right to criticize the administration of the city, provided his facts were correct and he made proper use of his data, it is very evident from his own address that he did not. The danger of such criticism, particularly by a man of Judge Robson's standing, is that an erroneous conception of the civic administration is spread outside the city's limits. In comparison with any city on this continent we have no hesitation in saying that the administration of the City of Winnipeg stands high. It has been fortunate in having for some time a succession of mayors, including the present occupant of the mayoral chair, whose names are known amongst the big men of Canada, so that while criticism of municipal councils is alright in its way—indeed desirable at times—the critic should always have at heart the city's good—which is certainly not in condemning everything to get at some shortcoming, small in itself, and which could be taken up privately and the wrong adjusted.

SENATOR C. P. BEAUBIEN.

The Hon. Charles P. Beaubien, the new senator from Montreal has been solicitor to the City of Outremont, P.Q., for some years, of which city his brother, Mr. Joseph Beaubien, is mayor.

Whatever we at home may do; however much we concede; whatever time we work; and whatever money we lose, we can never do as much as the lads at the front.—Will Crooks, M.P.