

Civic Improvement League Resolutions

At the annual convention of the Civic Improvement League of Canada, held in Winnipeg, the following resolutions were passed:—

Land Development.

1. "WHEREAS the present method of planning, dividing and settling land in Canada for agricultural purposes has not met with that measure of success which might be expected, having regard to the great natural advantages possessed by the Dominion, the League again endorses its previous resolution to recommend the Federal and Provincial Governments to make a complete survey and investigation into the problem of rural development; to consider a more scientific method of laying out the land so as to encourage the settlement of lands near to existing means of communication, and secure closer settlement of the population, more co-operation among farmers, and better facilities for transportation, education and social intercourse.

In view of the conditions likely to arise after the war, and in connection with the return of soldiers from the front, the League desires especially to direct attention to the need of this problem being dealt with in the immediate future."

Departments of Municipal Affairs.

2. "THAT the League again directs attention to the want of economy and efficiency in municipal government which in their opinion is not due to any absence of administrative ability or executive skill in the Dominion; but to the lack of proper means of educating and informing public opinion, of co-operation between the provinces and municipalities, and of co-ordinated and skilled provincial departments dealing with municipal affairs and capable of advising and assisting local administration."

REPRESENTATION.

3. "THAT the system of registration of voters and election of representatives in all forms of government needs revision and that the Dominion Council of the League be requested to place the question of proportional representation on the agenda for discussion at the next annual conference."

Teaching of Civics.

4. "THAT the teaching of citizenship in the schools be urged as of vital necessity to secure a better informed and wisely directed public opinion on civic problems."

Municipal Accounting and Reporting.

5. "WHEREAS there is at present no uniform system of Municipal Accounting and Reporting in Canada, and whereas the benefit of such for mutual help, information and guidance are incalculable, therefore be it resolved that this Convention place itself on record as favouring such uniformity and lend its moral support to the Union of Canadian Municipalities, which is already engaged in advancing this principle."

Planning and Development Legislation.

6. "THAT the Provincial Governments be urged to pass planning and development acts in all the provinces so as to secure that land will be laid out for purposes of economic use, health, convenience and amenity.

Regulation of Employment.

7. "WHEREAS in any system dealing with employment, public employment offices, under the direction of government are essential, and whereas the larger the territory organized, and, consequently, the greater the number of occupations concerned, the more easily can problems of employment be dealt with; therefore, be it resolved that:—

It is urgently desirable that every province in Canada immediately organize—if it has not already done so—a nucleus of an employment office system which may be developed as requirements demand;

That these provincial systems should be uniform and that measures be provided for close inter-provincial co-operation; and

That this co-operation be effected through a Federal

Bureau to be established in connection with the Dominion Department of Labor.

Vital and Municipal Statistics.

8. (a) "WHEREAS, there is need for more efficient and uniform legislation and administration relating to vital statistics in Canada, under which each province shall compile its statistics to enable comparisons to be made between the different provinces, as well as internationally, and

WHEREAS, the minimum standard for collecting vital statistics should at least be equal to that adopted by Australia and the United States, and

WHEREAS, public health problems, immigration and knowledge of the man power of the country cannot be studied without the aid of accurate statistical information;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Census and Statistics Office at Ottawa be congratulated on the steps it is taking to improve the methods of collecting vital statistics and that the said office and Provincial Government be memorialized regarding the urgency of further measures being taken to collect more accurate and comprehensive data regarding vital conditions.

(b) WHEREAS, there is no satisfactory system of collecting and tabulating municipal statistics in Canadian provinces, and the municipalities within each province have some-

WHEREAS, municipal expansion is proceeding and municipalities radically different standards, and

WHEREAS, municipal expansion is proceeding and municipal expenditure increasing at a rapid rate in Canada, and municipalities are unable to get the advantage of any comparative study of municipal developments and statistics;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Dominion Government be urged to institute a federal system of municipal statistics in co-operation with the municipal departments, bureaux, or branches, of the provincial governments."

Problem of Returned Soldiers.

9. "WHEREAS, the problem of returned soldiers is of pressing national importance, and should be dealt with independently of the problem of land settlement, and

WHEREAS, the organization of effective means of educating ex-service men to the class of industries for which their inclination and ability will suit them, other than those who are disabled and who are therefore being taken care of by the Hospitals Commission, requires the attention of a skilled and non-political federal commission acting in co-operation with the provinces and municipalities, and

WHEREAS, land settlement should not be forced or artificially stimulated in the sole interest of disposing of lands or increasing rural population, and

WHEREAS, the establishment of any colonies or the promotion of any system of land settlement should be carried out on scientific lines, and with due regard to the economic use of the land, so as to secure the facilities necessary for increasing production in all classes of industry, including manufacture and agriculture, and

WHEREAS, there is need for an elaborate survey and inventory of land resources and the preparation of complete topographical maps of land in Canada, the opportunity should be taken to employ those ex-soldiers who have suitable training for this purpose to make a survey of these resources and prepare the necessary maps.

BE IT RESOLVED that the attention of the Dominion and Provincial Governments be drawn to the importance of these matters notwithstanding the work that is already being accomplished by the Dominion Government through the Soldiers' Aid Commission.

Immigration, Etc.

10. "THAT the League records its adherence to its previous resolution in favour of better leagues to control immigration, to improve civil service standards, and to form a Dominion department of public health.