

## REAL CIVIC PATRIOTISM.

There will be many new problems to solve after the war,—problems of employment, adjustment, care of the returned soldiers, and of changed conditions,—problems that we may plan against but cannot meet until they are upon us. If here and now we can spare a little extra time and money and spend a little special thought and effort to improve the old conditions we will be doing much to make the way easier to meet the new difficulties when they come. Without neglecting any of the newer patriotic duties of to-day, we should hold fast to our interest and our efforts in behalf of the good, old, loyal works for the nation's betterment and uplift.

Before the war perhaps there was no other work so truly and completely patriotic as the work of the Children's Aid Society. Good citizenship is admittedly the foundation of true greatness, so efforts for the making and moulding of better citizens is assuredly the highest type of noblest patriotism. This has been the loyalty of the Children's Aid Society of Ontario for nearly a quarter of a century. Every year the various branches of this Society have bettered the conditions in thousands of homes throughout the Province, thus giving thousands of children the better chance for honesty, usefulness and good citizenship. Every year hundreds of children have been removed from evil surroundings where squalor and vice and ignorance could hardly fail to make them worthless and harmful citizens. Every year thousands,—literally thousands,—of children have been given a newer and a better and a truer opportunity through the patriotic efforts of the Children's Aid. The destitute, the neglected, the orphans, have been the loving care of this Society, and from that worthy Prince of Patriots, J. J. Kelso, who is the head of the movement, down to the humblest worker in the ranks, the Children's Aid Society has given time and talent and effort and money and service and heart to the work of building up a better citizenship by working from the only sure foundation,—a bettered childhood,—a childhood with good environment and with the opportunity and incentive to be helpful, upright and useful in the world,—a childhood that has a chance for happiness, honesty, health and growth. If this is not truly patriotic work, then what service more far-reaching in its benefits can we give for King and Country?

We say that we are fighting this war for posterity as well as for ourselves. But it will be a vain thing to leave a worthy heritage for posterity unless there is a worthy posterity to use and to apply it. Give every child a chance for all life's good. The children of to-day will be the nation of to-morrow, and what that nation may be lies in our keeping. Let neither poverty nor ignorance nor vice nor neglect be allowed to defraud any child of the right to a good chance to develop into a good citizen of our good Empire. There is a branch of the Children's Aid Society in this county, and every man, woman and child in all this district may know of a truth that every effort, every interest, every dollar given to this work is given surely and truly to the building up of a better citizenship and the patriotic work of the making of a greater nation.—Exchange.

## CLEAN UP THE CITY.

It is not too early for the health departments of our municipalities to prepare for their spring clean-up day. The snow will soon be gone, exposing to view the accumulated refuse of the winter months. In Canada we are favoured with the covering mantle of snow during several months, and, as a consequence, are inclined to be somewhat careless of sanitary conditions. With the coming of warmer weather, this neglect becomes a source of great danger, and, unless prompt action is taken, may give rise to serious epidemics.

Municipal Councils and Boards of Health should initiate without delay plans for a general spring clean-up. Generous appropriations should be made for the purpose, and a thorough organization developed for removal of refuse.

The local pride of the people should be appealed to on behalf of a clean home—an appeal rarely made in vain. In many of our towns and cities there are organizations interested in public questions, only requiring initiative to secure effective action. The beautifying of their home town should be made an incentive for energetic effort, thus increasing their interest and enthusiasm for the place called "Home."

## MUNICIPAL LIFE.

Men do not stay in municipal life, partly because the work and occupation are humble and partly because of the absence of efficiency. The interests of the men are apt to be too local, they want to build roads in their particular districts, and so on. Every man's interests should extend to every Division in the Municipality. Some men drop out because they are criticized, but criticism is healthy. When men are not satisfied with themselves there is hope. I am not well satisfied with the impermanence of the position of Secretary-Treasurer nor with the position of the Reeve. The Act places too much on the Reeve, and is the Reeve doing his duty? Isn't there a tendency to think the lowliness of the position makes it not worthy of his best efforts? If he does his duty, though, he occupies an important position and so do the Councillors. If not mentioned in history, they will be at least be remembered in the hearts and minds of the people. Magnify your office. —C. C. Hamilton, before Alberta Association of Local Improvements.

## CIVIL ENGINEER'S COST BOOK.

By T. E. Coleman.—Second Edition.

As explained in the preface, this hand book is intended to enable the civil engineer to give an approximate estimate at a moment's notice. For city engineers, and for mayors and aldermen also, it is particularly valuable, as it takes up the problems of road building, lighting, water supplies, and many other topics which are of vital importance to those who are interested in the progress of our cities and towns. The work gives many specimens of actual cases, so that one can get an idea of the variations in cost. It is surprising how much useful data has been compressed into this little volume, which is of just the right size for the pocket. The author would seem to have touched upon every engineering subject, and there is hardly a man, no matter what his profession, who will not find something instructive for himself between its covers. Published by E. and F. N. Spon, Ltd., London, and Spon and Chamberlain, 123 Liberty St., New York.

## "AMERICAN MUNICIPAL PROGRESS."

"Vitality, not urbanity, is the keynote of the city to-day."

The above extract, taken from a new book, "American Municipal Progress," might be termed the text upon which the author has built up a wonderful record of the progress made in the civic government of the great republic to the south of us. From cover to cover the author not only gives convincing evidence of a practical knowledge of local government as they have in the United States, but what is even more interesting to the average reader, he shows a real love for his subject—this cannot be said of most writers of this class of book.

There are twenty chapters in the volume, each dealing with a different phase of civic government—from City Planning to Local Centres; public health to education; playgrounds to municipal ownership; and municipal administration. Each phase is made interesting by good language well used. We congratulate the author, Charles Gueblin, on his work, which is worthy of a place in the library of every civic student and well wisher, and we would specially recommend it to that growing body of civic reformers. They will find many practical suggestions in its pages. "American Municipal Progress" is published by The Macmillan Company of Canada, Ltd., Toronto. Price \$2.00.

## SASKATCHEWAN.

The following is a list of bonds reported sold by the local government board:—

School District—Bluebird, No. 3425, \$400.  
Rural Telephone Companies—Cedoux, \$3,000; Clover Hill, \$7,000; Mount Forest, \$7,000; Kaiser, \$2,250.

Debentures reported sold by the Saskatchewan Local Government Board between Feb. 21st and March 3rd totalled as follows: School district, \$4,300; Rural Telephone Co.'s \$26,050; Town of Carlyle, \$6,000, and City of Weyburn, \$65,000.