

once ready to go out into active life as Canadians already half-made. There would thus be coming from England a steady stream of intelligent boys and girls who could be trained to suit Canadian requirements, in technical or farm pursuits, and who, when the time came to go out on their own account, would understand Canadian conditions. The expense would be borne by the British Government, and Canada would thus be given a class of the best immigrant material at no cost to herself. The scheme seems to have more possibilities of success than that of bringing Englishmen or foreigners who have already reached mature age, and have first to unlearn much before they can learn Canadian ways.

A Sign of the Times

A MOVE in the direction of public ownership has been made by the city of Toronto. One of the most important franchises in the city is the gas business, which is in the hands of a corporation under contract, and at various times propositions to acquire civic control of the business have been made with more or less reasonableness. The purchase of the works and goodwill seemed a burden too heavy to assume, however, though it has been admitted on all hands that some means of controlling a traffic which affects so large a proportion of the population was very desirable. A way recently appeared and has been taken advantage of.

The Gas Company announced its intention of putting new stock on the market to the extent of five thousand shares. Thereupon a by-law was presented to the citizens providing that the city should purchase a portion of this new stock; it carried almost unanimously, and at the sale of the shares in December representatives of the city secured 200 shares, of the par value of \$50 each. In this way the city has gained the right to have a voice, in the person of the Mayor, in the directorate of the company, besides having acquired a valuable property which will yield good returns. It is likely that additional purchases of stock will be made from time to time, full rights of purchase

having been accorded by the Legislature. One of the advantages of this arrangement is that the city will have an opportunity to learn to just what extent it is or is not possible to reduce the price of gas to consumers. But more than all, it is an experiment, in a very safe and guarded way, in civic ownership, and it may be regarded as a step toward a fuller adoption of that policy.

A New and Cheaper Fuel

SINCE there is a lack of natural coal supply in Central Canada, it would be good news if a substitute fuel could be found. Anthracite, of course, holds first place in fuel-value, and it is much to be hoped that the new north may have some as yet undiscovered stores for future use. Our wood-supply is gradually lessening; while, notwithstanding the growing favor of electricity for industrial purposes, the demand for a serviceable fuel, be it coal, wood, or something else, is yearly increasing. It is, therefore, gratifying to know that recent experiments in the manufacture of peat have proved very successful, and that there is good prospect of a new and excellent fuel from our own resources.

There are known to be vast beds of crude peat in various parts of Ontario, and the coal famine two years ago gave rise to a number of propositions for the development of these and the manufacture of a merchantable fuel. Experiments were made in several localities, with fair success, and some manufacturing is now being done on a small scale. In the western part of the province, however, the scheme has already assumed the proportions of an industry. Near Fort Frances and along the lines of railway west of that district are thousands of acres of peat bog, offering a supply of natural fuel practically unlimited. A company has been formed to work these beds and arrangements made for the erection of a plant of fifty tons capacity per day, and it is expected that the finished product will be placed on the market during the coming summer. As it reaches the consumer it is in pieces two and a half inches in diameter and about three inches long, of a light brown color. Its calefacient value is about five-