

REVIEW OF CIVIC IMPROVEMENT

Conducted by
W. H. Atherton, Ph. D. (Sec. City Improvement League of Montreal) in conjunction with the Editor.

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The Housing Problem

The Secretary of the National Housing Association writes to us in connection with the Third National Conference on Housing to be held at Cincinnati, December, 3, 4, and 5, 1913.

This year, for the first time, the Conference goes to the Middle West. Cincinnati has begun vigorously to attack its housing problem. It will show the delegates that in the west, as in the east, neglect will beget the slum. And Cincinnati will show them what hard, constructive work is necessary to wipe out the results of neglect.

The programme provided is based upon suggestions received from members of the National Housing Association in all parts of the country, consequently it reflects the thoughts in the minds of our housing workers. The speakers and the leaders of discussion are men and women who have achieved practical results.

Delegates will take an active part in all the discussions, for much of the value of the meetings is due to the keen questioning, the illuminating bits of experience, which serve to bring out important points.

The first Round Table Luncheon is always of interest, for there the delegates from all parts of the country report on the progress of the year. The Open Discussion Meeting has been repeated because of its success last year. Its terse, informal give and take serve to crystallize what before had been vague and unusable. What is the Housing Problem? Who can answer definitely and clearly? How can we keep our city a City of Homes? We all wish to do it, some of us have unformulated ideas as to methods. But we must put those ideas into definite shape, otherwise they are useless.

May we trust that Montreal will send delegates? The League will be glad to empower any of its members, at a visit to Cincinnati on December 3, 4, and 5, to act for it.

When shall we have a Canadian National Conference on Housing?

Canadian Welfare League

We have pleasure in publishing the purpose and programme of the new "Canadian Welfare League" mentioned in our recent number.

Purpose

1. To promote a general interest in all forms of social welfare.
2. To make a practical study of Canada's emergent social problems caused by our large and heterogeneous immigration; by the rapid growth of our cities and the stagnation of some of our rural districts; by the beginnings of industrialism; and generally our entrance into a fuller national life.
3. In each community to federate, or otherwise organize for co-operative work, existing social institutions so that each may give to the community more efficient service.
4. To enlist our citizens in personal service for the common welfare.
5. To provide trained leadership for social work.

Programme

1. *The establishment of a control Bureau.* This Bureau will be a clearing house for all kinds of work; will issue Bulletins, distribute literature and arrange for lectures. It will as far as possible work in close co-operation with Canadian Clubs, Commercial and Industrial Organizations; with Labor Organizations, with Government Institutions and with the various Religious and Social Organizations.

2. *The stimulation, organization and direction of community effort* in various cities, towns and rural districts. This would probably ultimately mean several specialists, e. g. for work among the immigrants, Public Health, Organized Charity, Country Life.

3. *The Securing of one or more training schools for social workers.*

The Secretary is Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, 68 Maryland St., Winnipeg.

Edmonton Welfare Association

Several weeks ago, on the invitation of Mr. A. T. Cushing, Mr. J. S. Woodsworth visited Edmonton and suggested to a group of business men the formation of an organization that would centralize or correlate the philanthropic and social welfare work of the city. As the Canadian Welfare League was shortly to be more fully organized in Winnipeg, a deputation was sent to the Winnipeg meeting with a view to having Edmonton represented in the larger movement.

On the return of the deputation to Edmonton a report was made and the local situation fully discussed. Finally a local organization was formed to be known as the "Edmonton Welfare Association." The officers are: Chairman, A. T. Cushing; Secretary pro-tem., Geo. M. Hall, Industrial Commissioner.

The Association purposes to provide in some more adequate way than at present for employment and relief; to secure the co-operation of the various philanthropic organizations; to establish an endorsement Committee and, generally, carry out an educational programme along public welfare lines.

The city of Paris, following the example of the authorities in many other towns and countries, is making an effort to provide tenements or lodgings for the poorer class of work people, and a sum of \$40,000,000 has been set aside for this purpose.