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CONTENTS.

Late Ald. S. Morley Wickett	8
The New Councils	8
An Erratic Criticism	8
Natural Municipal League	9
City Improvement League (R. O. Wynne Roberts) ..	10
A New Form of Civic Voting	11
Madras and Town Planning	11
How to Make Canadians	12
Good Roads Congress	13
Child Saving in Ontario	14
Municipal Affairs in British Columbia	16

The Juvenile Court (Mrs. Rose Henderson) ..	17
Teaching of Civics in Schools	17
J. S. Woodsworth (Ajax)	18
A Message to the Municipalities (W. D. Lighthall) ..	19
Work for Returned Soldiers	20
Canada and West Indies (Watson Griffin) ..	21
Co-operation for Civic Reform	22
City Governance (Continued)	23
Quebec Municipalities Going Dry (John H. Roberts) ..	24
Official Efficiency (James Murray) ..	25
Wanted—More Explicit Civic Accounting ..	26

A Real Preparedness

"Get ready, commence getting ready now; this is the opportunity of a generation, perhaps of a century. This all means not the smallest relaxation of our efforts to win the war and usher in this happy day of opportunity. If any man must choose, at any moment, between striking a blow to defeat the enemy and taking a thought for the morrow of peace, by all means strike the blow and let the thought go, but we surely have time for both, and if our preparations for peace be intelligent and earnest we will in a few years, be better off than we ever were.

"The chance that is coming will not be repeated. We expect to win this war so completely that it will be the last for generations. The lines upon which the peaceful development of the world will proceed will be fixed in the first few months after the signing of peace, and we will certainly not get our fair share unless we have made previous painstaking preparation."

So spoke the Hon. Robert Rogers at the Annual Convention of the Manitoba "Good Roads" Association. The words are worthy both of the man and the medium through which the message was given to Canada.

If her public men are big enough to utilize in the broadest spirit the great opportunities given by her vast natural resources and geographical situation, Canada will be one of the few nations able to turn the consequences of this disastrous war to her advantage. And she will have every right to do so. She has sent and is sending her best men, and many of her best women, to the firing line and her people have shown a real spirit of financial patriotism, which must have opened the eyes of our enemies and given confidence to our statesmen. But if Canada is to become the leader in nation building her citizens would have her, they must prepare now. This country has the opportunity of bringing to its

broad acres the large part of the British army now serving in Flanders, an army composed of men who are trained for outdoor work and made up of the best brawn and brain of the old country — provided she is prepared to receive them. Canada certainly will receive, and without invitation, a large immigration from the Latin and Slav countries of Europe and unless we secure a fair proportion of those Anglo-Saxons — for whom Australia and New Zealand are making a bid—we will soon have a larger foreign population than British. And the problem even to-day is how to Canadianize our foreign element. In addition to this new immigration, there will be the problem of securing work for our own returned soldiers (though from replies to our appeal to the municipalities there is an assurance that they will be taken care of), as well as the replacing of the present munition workers. Taking the basis of supply and demand the problem is no small one.

It seems to us that it will be the business of our leaders to create the demand by propagating ways and means for a larger and better cultivation of our lands and by finding larger markets for our products and manufactures; and to create the machinery by which this large influx of human beings can be intelligently directed. The day is over for crude immigration methods — from which our over-crowded cities are suffering today. It is only an enlightened determination on the part of its people that will make Canada the proud country of progress. Will they rise to the occasion? We believe they will if our public men will set the example.