THE CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

City of Montreal and United States \$2.25 Canada, Great Britain and Countries in

Postal Union \$2.00

Published Monthly by

The Canadian Municipal Journal Co., Limited

Coristine Building, Montreal.

FREDERICK WRIGHT, Editor.

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VOL. XVI..

MONTREAL, MARCH, 1920.

No. 3.

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Nation			
AVAITION	TOT TAT		

National M	NT	ENTS.	
The Home Town. Municipal Union in Canada. Advertising for Industries. Human Safety First. Anomaly in Assessment.	73 73 74 75 75 76 76	Industrial Activities in British Columbia. Civic Salaries Tenants Tax (Ed. A. Everett). Housing Problems in Europe. A Valedictory (C. R. Woodruff). Town Planning that Pays (James Ewing). Should Mothers Get State Aid (J. W. Macmillan. Housing and Health (Dr. C. A. Hodgetts). Central Bureau (J. W. Mullen).	78 79 80 82 84

National Municipal League of the United States

At the annual meeting of the Municipal League of the United States, Mr. W. D. Lighthall, K.C., the Hon. Secretary of the Union of Canadian Municipalities were re-elected as one of the Vice-Presidents. This honour is not only a compliment to Canada but one well deserved by Mr. Lighthall himself, who for nineteen years has given his time and his energies to the building up of the municipal life of the Dominion. At the same meeting the Hon. Charles E. Hughes, formerly of the United States Supreme Court, was elected President, and Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip, formerly secretary of the Treasury of the United States was elected to the treasurership of the League.

It is a good sign and indicative of the growing interest in civic affairs that is taking place in the United States when men of the recognzed standing of Messrs. Hughes and Vanderlip take up responsible offices in the principal civic organization of the country. In Canada we have not yet got to the stage when our public men take an active interest in civic affairs—too many of them have used the local training for, and as a means of, getting into provincial and federal politics, where they would seem to do their best to forget the very fundamentals of government, which are essentially based on that of the community. Be that as it may, municipal government is coming into its own in Canada, the citizens realizing more than ever its importance to their own welfare. And no organization has done more to bring about this larger interest in civic affairs in Canada than the Union of Canadian Municipalities—which for the last two decades has been preaching the great gospel of community responsibility on the one hand and the value of community combination on the other, for the protection of the people's public interests.

As has already been mentioned in these columns, Mr. Clouston Rogers Woodruff, after twenty-five years of faithful service as secretary, had placed his resignation in the hands of the executive of the League. At the meeting already mentioned, Mr.

Woodruff was elected as Hon. Secretary, and advantage was taken to present him with a humidor bearing an inscription which we repeat here, because of its eloquent testimony to the man who, above all others, has given his life to the building up of peace ideals in the country to the south of us. The inscription is as follows:-

As every institution is but the lengthened shadow of a man so the National Municipal League hereby gratefully acknowledges that it is but another name for Clinton Rogers Woodruff who has been for twenty-five years its devoted secretary, its organizing genius, its motive force. its guiding spirit.

He found the National Municipal League a mere project: he leaves it the central force of American civics. He found municipal reform a feeble aspiration; he leaves it the foremost achievement of modern democracy.

In grateful testimony whereof, this token is presented by the National Municipal League at its annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, December 29, 1919.

THE HOME TOWN.

The Prince of Wales on recently receiving the Freedom of the old Borough of Windsor (Eng.) not only reminded the Mayor of the existence of another Windsor in Ontario where he had received a splendid welcome, but of the essentially Canadian phase of "my home town." It is a term of pride with Canadians when away from home, and particularly was this so with our soldiers when in Europe. This feeling of love and pride for the home town is something that should be encouraged, even in peace times, when sentimental values are discounted in our striving for wealth. Such encouragement can be given in a better knowledge of his home town by the average citizen, in the form of local literature such as that compiled by City Clerk Baker, of London, referred to last month in these columns. In other words every citizen going on a journey should be a walking advertisement for the city, town or village in which he lives, but to increase his usefullness, consciously or unconsciously, he should be a fund of information, gotten through literature supplied to him by the local authorities.