

An Industrial Congress of Fifteen Canadian Municipalities

The municipalities of the Niagara District of Ontario are to be congratulated on their determination to enter the spotlight of publicity so that manufacturers and others seeking locations in Canada may learn something of the opportunities offered by this wonderful district with the largest electric development in the world at its doors. The idea is co-operative to the extent that an industrial association has been formed comprising fifteen rural and urban municipalities including three cities and four towns. As a good send off a three days congress is called for August for the purpose of affording, in the words of the invitation, "a close view of the facilities that have made the community the workshop of Canada." Other districts may not agree with such a claim, still others may think the claim premature, but what harm is there in a little anticipation of the event, for there is no doubt about the opportunities, which are bound to be taken advantage of when better known.

The big fact that a number of municipalities have joined together for the common purpose of benefiting all is an indication of the new spirit of progressive citizenship that is fast entering the minds of the people of Canada, and the further fact that this larger conception of industrialism—as exemplified in the industrial congress—is being first worked out in these fifteen municipalities comprising the Niagara district is strong evidence of the public and broad minded spirit of the citizens. As already pointed out in these columns every municipality has a moral as well as a legitimate right to secure all the industries it can, provided fair means are used, and we do not know of any fairer or better means to secure industries than those to be used by the Niagara Industrial Association, namely to show what actually has been done in the way of establishing facilities for manufacturing and some of the manufacturing plants now operating because of these same facilities.

The Suburb de Luxe

We recently had a visit from Reeve Pearson of Point Grey one of the suburbs of Vancouver. As became an enthusiastic citizen, Mr. Pearson spoke very convincingly of the glories of this beautiful spot on the Pacific Ocean. What is more he backed up his statements with actual photographs which made one quite envious of those who enjoy the charms of what is in reality one of the most delightful residential communities in Canada. Situated within easy distance of Vancouver the locality, because of its beauty and salubriousness, has for many years been the favorite residential district for the business men of the Pacific metropolis, but it was not until a municipality was formed that a real community spirit was established, the first indication of which was shown in the citizens turning out en masse one day in March, 1915 to plant 300 maple trees along the principal boulevard. This led to the formation of the local horticultural society whose exhibitions each year have become famous along the Pacific coast.

Part of Reeve Pearson's conversation was taken up with the government of Point Grey. It was interesting and instructive. Point Grey as it is today is a good example of what good government can do for a community. Because of the extremely low taxation the people are induced to build a much better class of dwelling than what they would do if compelled to pay heavy taxes. But though the taxes are low the municipality has every up-to-date convenience and facility to make life worth living—good roads (the famous Marine Driveway that runs for eighteen miles along the banks of the Pacific Coast is in Point Grey), municipal parks, tennis courts, bowling greens and bathing beaches, pure water, electricity and gas. So no wonder Mr. Pearson is proud of the municipality of which he is leading citizen.

Taking up the question of municipal union Mr. Pearson urged a better understanding between the East and the West. He pointed out that there are certain fundamental problems of local government equally applicable to every part of Canada and the more often those who have the admin-

istration of our cities and towns get together the better it is for all. In this, Mr. Pearson expresses the same sentiments that we have been urging for years.

A GOOD BAROMETER

A number of newspapers of Canada are quite upset about the first results of proportional representation in Winnipeg, the Toronto Saturday Night saying that the system "seems to signify perpetual confusion." So far as we know the only confusion there was caused by some of the deputy returning officers being scared of the complications in counting the votes which were more apparent than real. We are not at all interested in the political result of the Winnipeg elections, but we are interested in knowing whether or not the election under proportional representation was a good barometer of the votes of the citizens, and according to our information it was. In Winnipeg it happened to be in favor of the radical and labor candidates, showing that a large proportion of those who voted were sympathetic towards these two elements. But be it noted that had the election been run on the old lines the radical and labor candidates would have secured all the seats, meaning that the more conservative groups would have had no representation at all. It is because of the fair assurance of minority representation that the proportional system has in England the House of Lords as one of its principal advocates.

FOUR FUNDAMENTALS IN AN EFFECTIVE CITY GOVERNMENT

Citizens active, determined and without axes to grind.

A City Council courageous, public-spirited and able.

Heads of Departments devoted to the public service, co-operative in spirit and practice of sound and independent judgement, respective and obedient but not subservient to the Council and Board of Control.

A Commissioner of Finance far-sighted with an eye single to the interests of the community as a whole, dispassionate in his judgment and inflexible in his determination to safeguard the City's and the citizen's interests.—Bureau of Municipal Research, Toronto.