

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

Harry Bragg, Pres.

Frederick Wright, Sec.

FREDERICK WRIGHT, Editor.

Coristine Building, Montreal.

Any article appearing in these pages may be reproduced provided full credit is given to the Journal.

VOL. XV.

MONTREAL, OCTOBER 1919.

No. 10

CONTENTS.

Necessity of Municipal Union (Clinton R. Woodruff) ..	326	Value of Provincial Unions (A. Roberts K. C.)	337
Canadianization	329	Value of Municipal Departments	340
Fire Prevention Day	330	Municipal Affairs in Quebec (Oscar Morin K. C.)	340
National Industrial Conference	330	Municipal Dept. of Alberta (John Perrie)	340
U. C. M. Convention	332	Undeveloped Water Powers (A. Amos)	342
Presidential Address (Mayor Bouchard)	332	U. C. M. Banquet	344
Legislative Work of U. C. M. (Fred Cook)	333	High Cost of Living (W. D. Lighthall, K. C.)	344
Report of Hon. Secretary	335	New U. C. M. Executive	347
Valedictory of Hon. Secretary	335	High Cost of Living	348

Canadianization

The Department of the Interior of the United States has in connection with its Bureau of Education a division formed for the special purpose of Americanizing the foreign born, by inculcating American ideals and all that they mean into the minds of the foreigner who has made his, or her, home in the United States, the primary education in each instance being English and citizenship. Among the agencies used to bring this about are the schools, federal and state bureaus of immigration, libraries, chambers of commerce, and even municipal authorities. As an illustration of the means used "Americanization" the official organ of the division, reports the organization of a Municipal Forum in New York by the Mayor's Committee of Women on Reconstruction and Relief; the object of the forum being "to establish closer relations with the foreign born and to familiarize them with the opportunities and advantages in American citizenship."

In Canada while there are a number of societies doing excellent propaganda work there has never been any concerted effort to impress the ideals and spirit of Canadian citizenship into the minds of the foreign born domiciled in this country. We have let them shift for themselves with the result that in the cities and the towns and in the country districts there are colonies of men and women who are just as foreign to our language and our ideas of citizenship as the day they left their native shores to earn their living in this country. In addition there are thousands of children born in Canada of foreign parents who know not the language of the land of their birth. Particularly is this the case in certain parts of the West where large colonies of foreigners have become acclimatized to the soil, but not to the traditions of the Dominion. This is not the fault of the foreigners themselves but the fault of our immigration system because

under it (other than general compliance with the general laws of the country and which they never actually know), there are no regulations to ensure an intelligent understanding of our national life, without which no real progress in **Canadianism** can be made amongst the foreign born. But even assuming our immigration system was changed to better suit the rightful demands of those who would have this country Canadian in language and ideals, instead of a conglomeration of many races and many languages as it threatens to become, it would only affect the future. Such a change would not affect our present foreign population which number not much less than one million, or nearly one eighth of our whole population. With such a large population of foreign born in our midst, but not of us, the problem of their assimilation is a serious one, which is made more difficult by the tendency of the foreigners to group themselves together.

The task then of Canadianizing the foreign born is no small undertaking and will require the best minds of the country to induce these people from other lands to so adapt themselves to the traditions, spirit and language of Canada without losing their own identity and reverence for those things which count most in life. Such a task must be national in conception, as in the United States, and it seems to us that this is a special opportunity for the new Dominion Department of Public Health to show its usefulness, inasmuch as underlying public health must be a knowledge of sanitary conditions, which certainly cannot be instilled into the minds of men and women ignorant of the first law of Canadian citizenship, namely cleanliness. So that it would be in keeping with the objects for which it was established to bring about for the Department of Health to carry on a propaganda for **Canadianism** such as is being carried on for **Americanization** under the direction of the Washington Dept. of the Interior.