

The Town Planning Institute of Canada

The Town Planning Institute of Canada is now an established fact. It has over one hundred members under the presidency of Mr. Thomas Adams, Town Planning Adviser to the Commission of Conservation, and has published its first bulletin. That there are over a hundred town planners in Canada—that is engineers who are specializing in the planning and laying out of communities—is strong evidence, not only of the importance of town planning itself, but of the determination of Canadian engineers to prepare themselves for the actual work of town planning. Furthermore, such an institute will be a guarantee to the average municipal council

desirous of re-planning the community along sane lines, that the plan submitted by any of the members will be practicable, because such adviser will have the benefit of the knowledge and the experience of all the members. The Town Planning Institute should get into touch with the councils as early as possible for they are the authorities who must be converted to the necessity of Town Planning.

The new President of the Canadian Good Roads Association is Dr. G. E. Desaulniers, M.L.A., who for a number of years has taken a keen interest in the good road movement in the Province of Quebec.

Chambers of Commerce and the Community

In the last issue of this journal was published a very important article by Mr. W. Jos. Shea (late Industrial Commissioner for the city of Three Rivers, P.Q.) which showed very clearly the close association between the government and the industrial life of the community. Throughout the article was the sound suggestion that unless the social conditions were good and a real civic spirit prevailed, no community could hope to develop materially. In taking this stand Mr. Shea is in accord with the best traditions of municipal economics. To-day the captains of industry realize that good citizens mean good workers and they also realize that good citizenship can only be built up by cleanly and bright sur-

roundings, consequently in many of the American communities the local chamber of commerce takes a very active interest in civic affairs purely on economic grounds.

In Canada, though there are exceptions, there is little association between the boards of trade and the councils, unless it is in the form of criticism, and the councils are left to find out for themselves the expectations of those manufacturers who would locate in their midst. This is hardly fair to the local authorities who should have all the support possible from those in a position to know the requirements necessary to develop the community.

Lengthening Municipal Service

We note with pleasure that Mayor Hardie, of Lethbridge (Alta.), has been re-elected by acclamation for his fourth term, he already having served eight years. The genial past president of the Union of Canadian Municipalities is one of those optimists whose cheery presence is ever a beacon of encouragement wherever municipal men meet. Believing as he does that good municipal administration is the panacea for all the public ills of the community, Mayor Hardie never loses an opportunity to preach his gospel, and he does it such a way that his hearers never fail to be impressed and are encouraged to "carry on." Municipal Canada cannot afford to lose such men as Mayor Hardie. Another re-election we note with pleasure is that of Mayor MacYoung of Saskatoon (Sask.), who with Commissioner Yorath is building up the administration of the prairie city to a high standard. Municipal government to be successful should be continuous so far as its personal is concerned, and the fact that there are many re-elections by acclamation this year is an indication that the citizens are beginning to realize its importance. In the Old Country long municipal service is a habit rather than an accident. In looking up the records of the old city of Chester (Eng.), we find that the length of service in the council averages over fifteen years, one of the members having served for over forty years. What is more, this gentleman confesses that he has not yet completed his municipal education, though he is a lawyer.

Municipal government is getting more intricate and complicated each year, and no municipal executive can hope to do much for his electorate during his first term of office. He has too much to learn. It is only during his second, third and fourth terms that he does really effective constructive work.

THE CITIZENS RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF CANADA

We note that the Citizens' Research Institute of Canada is now making headway, under Dr. Horace L. Brittain, its director. This institute has been established to study and to advise on civic questions, as affecting the municipalities in the different provinces, on the same lines as the Toronto Bureau of Municipal Research of which Dr. Brittain is also director. The Toronto bureau has done excellent work and there is no reason why the Canadian bureau should not do equally good work. Civic government now means so much to the progress of Canada that every means used for its betterment must be encouraged and the fact that the Citizens' Research Institute has for its head a man of such outstanding ability as Dr. Brittain, who is backed up by a committee of Canada's foremost citizens, and an advisory board of experts who know Canadian conditions from personal knowledge and experience, is a guarantee of efficiency. How far the municipal councils will back the institute remains to be seen, but one thing is certain, no council would regret taking advantage of its services.