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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

MUNICIPAL PROBLEMS.

In a measure, the problems associated with municipalities are among the most perplexing confronting business men at the present time. As we pointed out in our leading editorial last week, the promiscuous and indiscriminate borrowing carried on by municipalities will shortly force provincial governments to establish municipal loan boards with a general supervision over all issues and loans. This is being rendered necessary by the inexperienced men at the head of civic affairs and by the frequent and in many cases the injudicious nature of the flotations offered the public.

Another question which the municipalities could profitably deal with relates to the furnishing of information on markets and prices. The great "spread" between the prices obtained by producers and those paid by consumers has been commented on so often that further repetition is unnecessary. This difference in prices paid and prices received could easily be reduced if some system could be devised by which information on goods, markets and prices could be collected and distributed by a municipal board. At once some people will be disposed to criticise this suggestion and to say that such a move would be an interference on the part of the municipality with the individual rights and liberties of the middlemen. This criticism is not warranted. The Federal Government maintains offices and agencies for the purpose of securing information in regard to the extension of our foreign trade. We see no valid reason why this same government assistance should not be extended to the provincial field and from there to the municipal. A provincial bureau of this sort could render valuable assistance in collecting and diseminating information relating to the distribution and selling of produce and could do a great deal of good by educating both producers and consumers in regard to matters which are of the most vital interest to them Such a bureau could deal with freight and express rates, parcels post, municipal markets, economic value of good roads and a score of other points which have an economic bearing on the present high cost of living.