

## DEAD MAN ELECTED ALDERMAN.

Probably for the first time in the annals of civic elections a dead man has been elected to the position of alderman. The incident occurred in the town of Aylmer (Que.) last month when Mr. John Beaton was nominated as alderman, though he was ill at the time. He got worse and died on election day, but the name could not legally be removed from the ballot, and consequently forty-six more votes were cast in favor of the name of John Beaton than that of his opponent and he was declared elected—though dead. A by-election will take place.

## CIVIC GOVERNMENT IN CANADA.

Local government in Canada to-day, in spite of drawback is on a par with other parts of the Empire, which speaks well for the sterling character of our permanent officials. It is true they have not had the professional training of their English colleagues, but this is more than made up in a new country like this by their initiative and practical sense. And this official driving force during the last few years has been well overlooked in one or two provinces by the departments of municipal affairs.

## WATER SUPPLIES FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Recently compiled statistics respecting Canadian waterworks show that many of our systems are supplied by gravity from distant sources, thus minimizing the danger of pollution. The number of such systems is rapidly growing, as well as their importance; over 100 of them are in use in the Dominion, including those in many large cities from Halifax to Vancouver. The necessity of properly protecting against both pollution and deforestation the watersheds upon which these systems are dependent cannot be too strongly urged.

In this connection, the example of Newark, N. J., is unique. The city now owns in fee simply some 62 per cent. of the 63 square miles of the watersheds from which the supply is drawn, and in the course of a few years will probably own the whole area. This case is hardly parallel to that of Seattle and other far western cities which own all or large portions of the watersheds of their municipal water-supplies, for the impounding reservoirs of those cities are in comparatively unpopulated areas, while Newark's reservoirs are within a thirty mile radius of New York city.

Experience indicates the practical impossibility of enforcing laws and regulations upon an indifferent public, and the only feasible method of protecting watersheds is complete control and exclusion from settlement. In Canada, most of these watersheds are yet unpopulated and immediate action would avoid future complication.

Scientific forestry has been conducted with great success on several of these reservations in the United States. With many municipal waterworks departments, forestry has become an important accessory, while a private company, supplying water to Nashua, N.H., has demonstrated complete success on a 1,000 acre tract, which is actually yielding considerable profits, and will continue to do so indefinitely. —L. G. D., in Conservation.

## LOCAL PATRIOTISM.

The citizens of Sherbrooke (Que.) for some little time have been going to bed early, so that more power, which is owned by the municipality, can be supplied to the local works busy on munitions. The street lights too are put out early in the evening for the same reason. The rate payers of this progressive municipality will gain both ways — individually, in their light bills, and collectively in the extra profit derived from the supply of power thus saved—the power plant being municipally owned. Of course, this saving of house illumination is not compulsory, the citizens of Sherbrooke are, in this way, just doing their bit to help finish the war, and at a good profit too.

## CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE OF CANADA.

That there is still a wide field for Civic Improvement was evidenced at the recent meetings of the Dominion Council of the Civic Improvement League, as shown in the record of what has been done. Some of the illustrations and statements of Mr. Thomas Adams, the Town Planning Adviser, in his illustrated report, were very significant.

It was shown that even a splendid plan does not do all that may be expected of it, for in Prince Rupert—which has the best plan of any city in the Dominion—there are two stores on a twenty-five foot lot, with a three foot "street" between them, and on each side of this "street" are five dwellings. This shows that a plan is not all that is required for the making of the "City Beautiful."

Ottawa, with its magnificent improvement scheme, was seen to have wretched slums, and to allow three story wooden dwellings.

Quebec allows the rebuilding of a wooden three-story dwelling in which three persons had been burned to death.

Mr. Adams pointed out the expense of constructing diagonal streets in Montreal, as suggested by the Architects' Association. But it would be well to add that this expense can be avoided by adopting the system of "excess condemnation" (or buying more land than is necessary, and then selling the excess after the improvement is completed). Further, it is interesting to know that this has been done in Montreal, where the city made a profit of some \$80,000 on the widening of St. Lawrence street.

While it is true that a plan for the alteration or extension of a city is necessary, this is only the first step in the real development of a city in which the inhabitants can live in health, security and happiness.

### Civic Improvement League Meeting.

There was only a small attendance at the meeting of the Dominion Council of the Civic Improvement League last month, which was presided over by Dr. J. W. Robertson, in the unavoidable absence of the President, Sir John Willison. This may be remedied in the future if the suggestion that the Government should pay the railway fares of the delegates, be carried out.

Mr. Adams read a report of the work done during the year, and questions were put by Dr. Atherton (for the Montreal City Improvement League), Mrs. Adam Short, and others as to the fate of the resolutions passed at the previous meeting. One asking for the establishment of a Federal Department of Health, which had not been presented until Parliament had adjourned, were confirmed, and it was decided to have it sent to the Government when Parliament was sitting.

Regarding the Collection of Municipal and Vital Statistics, Mr. Adams reported that questions had been sent out to 200 municipalities, but the returns were not complete. A sub-committee was formed to deal with this subject.

The Committee was continued, and the Executive, Sir John Willison, Mr. Frank Beer and Mr. Thomas Adams, was re-elected.

An invitation to hold the National Conference in Winnipeg was accepted, the date and other arrangements being left to the Executive.