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### WINNIPEG'S FIRE TAX.

The citizens of Winnipeg, according to a Bulletin issued by the local Citizens' Research League, pays in fire insurance premiums \$1,500,000 each year. Added to this is the annual cost of the fire brigade, which amounts to \$500,000, making a total cost to the citizens of two million dollars, or \$10 per head. As a reason for this tremendous yearly fire tax the bulletin says that "Winnipeg's comparatively dry climate, the high winds, the long months when buildings must be heated, the large number of frame houses and the prevalence of shingle roofs all contribute to make the fire risk abnormally high," and adding that only by the Fire Department being kept up to the highest level of alertness and efficiency can it cope with such unusual risk.

The bulletin then gives suggestions taken from the recommendations of the Fire Commission, which was held in 1912, and which reads as follows:—

1.—That the fire brigade should make closer and more detailed inspections.

2.—That the question of increasing the capacity of the domestic water system should be the subject of an investigation and report by competent engineers.

3.—That the high pressure system should be more frequently flushed.

4.—That revolving screens, capable of being cleared by flushing, be installed at high pressure intakes.

5.—That owners of buildings should instruct employees as to promptly calling the fire department.

6.—That display cards should be placed in every building giving location of nearest alarm boxes.

7.—That in the interest of public safety, it may be advisable for the city council to obtain legislation requiring buildings of hazardous occupancy, especially where large numbers of people are employed or congregated, to be safeguarded against fire by the installation of automatic sprinklers, the enclosure of vertical openings or such other methods as are deemed necessary.

The bulletin, which is worth reading by every head of a fire brigade, can be had by applying to the secretary of the Citizens' Research League, Winnipeg.

### SOCIAL WORKERS UNDERPAID.

Men in business gladly pay large salaries for efficient service. But the same men, when directing charitable enterprises will spend two or three hundred thousand dollars in buildings, and then employ an untrained man to direct the work at a ridiculously low salary. If high class men were put in charge of all charitable work at proper remuneration many social problems would soon be in a fair way to solution.

### STATIST FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY C. P. R.

In discussing the recent Canadian Pacific report, the London Statist, which is one of the most conservative financial publications in England, has a two-page article headed Canadian Pacific Economies, which says that though the volume of traffic was all that desired, 1916 was one of the most difficult years ever experienced. Enormous business had to be handled with a serious shortage of cars, while the cost of material was rising by leaps and bounds; fuel and wages were increasing, and labor was scarce and less efficient. Had not the road been vastly improved in recent years, and the capacity greatly increased, serious congestion must have occurred, making proper control over expenditure impossible.

The Statist alludes further to the great improvement in train and carload statistics, and to the increased economy shown by the conducting transportation ratio. It thinks that notwithstanding the advancing costs, the net earnings and profits for 1917 will compare favorably with those for 1916, and that there is every likelihood that the growth of the company's activities will prove as wonderful in the future as in the past.

"If officials want their city to grow they should study the methods of merchants in their show windows; have something to attract the people.—Prof. Dana C. Munro.

Civic government should be responsive on the one hand and responsible on the other—not to the past, not to political parties, not to interests—but to the people.—F. C. Howe.