

BOARD OF TRADE AND CIVICS FOR WINNIPEG

A Comprehensive Plan to Include Many Special Organizations

A plan is being devised in Winnipeg to erect a body to be known as a Board of Trade and Civics, which would include in its membership the present Board of Trade, Industrial Bureau, Civic Improvement League, Citizens' Research League and many other local bodies. The matter was recently submitted to the Citizens' Research League for investigation and a definite plan has been prepared along the lines of the American City Bureau of New York, and the National Association of Commercial Organization Secretaries of Minneapolis. A plan is outlined in bulletin number ten of the league as follows:—

Representative business men and citizens generally recognize the desirability of one comprehensive Winnipeg organization commensurate with the growing importance of the city and province, and capable of working actively and unitedly for business and community progress. Much activity is now directed to these ends, but owing to the large number of unrelated agencies there is an immense waste of time, energy and money, and a consequent loss of general effectiveness through overlapping or needless competition. Membership in several bodies, which have scarcely sufficient reason for separate existence, often entails waste effort. As one example of lost motion, individuals frequently receive from three to six communications relative to the same matter from different associations. Lastly, the community suffers by the expenditure of effort which is merely sectional, and from the fact that the average citizen has not yet been brought to realize sufficiently his personal responsibility for the development of the whole.

The Benefits of Co-ordination.

"The benefits of co-ordination would be immediate and obvious. The multiplicity of membership fees and consequent expense to individuals would be lessened by the organization of one strong body efficiently managed and with departmental activities. A large saving would be effected in overhead charges alone. But more important, though less obvious, results would be achieved in the near future. Centralized effort along community lines would have beneficial consequences, such as could never be brought about by unco-ordinated sectional activities. Organization and co-ordination of the kind here suggested: (1) Would make it possible to co-ordinate more fully with the government in utilizing all energies and resources for winning the war and in making preparation for the difficult period of reconstruction; (2) would more effectively meet the urgent need of economy, public and private, and assist to increased production in manufacturing, mining and agriculture; (3) would help mobilize the services of the best available leadership in education, science, agriculture, mining, commerce and industry, for the systematic development of the community; (4) would make it possible to undertake definite programmes of work, not only for the city at large, but for the various interests represented; (5) would make a very much larger number of people feel themselves responsible for community progress.

Revised Ideas and Methods of Organization.

The war has tended to destroy many old ideas, amongst others sectionalism and unrestrained individualism. In Great Britain the government appointed committees on reconstruction have emphatically recommended large schemes of co-operation that will cover every department of the national life. In all directions in the United States old chambers of commerce have become revived with the new idea of association for community ends, and in many places too numerous to mention, commercial organizations are being formed or reconstituted with definitely civic and community purposes. So widespread is the idea, that agencies have come into existence which devote themselves to conducting (with an avowedly civic purpose) reorganization campaigns for chambers of commerce and similar bodies.

The American City Bureau.

"Of these, the most successful is the American City Bureau, which claims to have organized upwards of 75 chambers of commerce. The plan of the bureau is to carry on rapid fire educational campaigns appealing for membership on an individual and democratic basis. The membership fee (subscribers are asked to pledge themselves to contribute for three years) is \$25 for single memberships. The bureau

looks upon general community problems as more important than any sectional or trade problem, and therefore rejects the idea of a mere federation of existing organizations, though in some instances there has been later creation of subsections for the consideration of the interests of special groups.

Outlines of Suggested Scheme of Organization.

"The desirability and, indeed, the necessity of building up an organization representative of all classes, interests and useful activities in the community have already been emphasized. The present war-time spirit of co-operation will be no less needed to meet the difficult period of reconstruction. Every class and every individual in the community can contribute something useful in common service. The Citizens' Research League gratefully acknowledges the valuable help it has received from Labor men on its committees and strongly suggests, particularly in view of the period of reconstruction, the desirability of having representatives of the various labor unions amongst the membership. This would give an opportunity for organized labor as such to be represented on the governing body and committees, etc., of the new organization. Similarly, representatives of all professions and Winnipeg officials of agricultural organizations should find a place in the reorganized board.

Basis of Membership.

"Membership should be on a personal basis with fee of \$25 per annum, if possible pledged for three years. Firms and corporations should be invited to nominate for election to the board as many of their members or staff as will ensure participation in the board's activities and subscriptions to its working funds commensurate with their interest in the affairs and in the development of the city. Voting should be on the basis of one vote for each individual member. For example, a large wholesale firm might nominate for membership its executive officers and also heads of departments (the firm as such paying the fees)."

It is suggested that the officers should be a president, vice-president and treasurer, chosen by popular election, and a secretary appointed by the council, the latter body should consist of 20 members, ten to be re-elected each year. Certain section bureaus and standing committees should be appointed to deal with special questions. It is anticipated that an institution of this kind would, through its size and strength, not only be able to promote the city's progress, but also be able to co-operate with outside organizations more easily than any of the smaller organizations of Winnipeg.

CONSCRIPTION OF WEALTH

They tell an old story in Dublin, Ireland, of a big private bank which became unpopular. At a meeting of protest many of those present lit their pipes with bills issued by the bank and passed a resolution asking holders of them to do likewise, thinking that burning its obligations would put the bank out of business. We have people in America with equally hazy ideas about banking and finance, including those who talk about confiscating wealth to pay the costs of this war.—New York Commercial.

CANNING TRADE TO BE LICENSED

The canning trade will be brought under the license system of the Canada Food Board by June 15th. Licenses will be required to engage in the manufacture for sale of canned or preserved fruits or vegetables, meats, poultry, soups, grains, and products made therefrom, jellies, jams, sauces, pickles, condensed, evaporated, dried or powdered or canned milk, or dried, evaporated or desiccated vegetables or fruits.

Licenses are not required when the canning factory is operated in connection with a commercial meat packing factory. The order issued by the Food Board also requires that no manufacturer of canned or evaporated fruits or vegetables, without the written consent of the Canada Food Board, shall at any time contract for the sale of more goods than he reasonably expects to be in a position to pack, and in no case shall the amount contracted for exceed 100 per centum of the average yearly delivery of such articles made by him during the four years preceding 1918.