

SIR HERBERT AMES

In the appointment of Sir Herbert Ames, M.P., to be financial member of the Secretariat of the League of Nations the Allied Governments secured an excellent administrator, but Canada lost a good public servant, though Sir Herbert will represent the Dominion on the League. Experienced in the service via the Montreal City Council, where he sat for many years and as a member of the House of Commons, this broad minded Canadian will in the larger service that he has undertaken be able to show his new colleagues something of the virility and orderliness of mind of this northern nation; characteristics that essentially belong to Sir Herbert Ames.

GERMAN HELMETS UTILIZED FOR ROAD BUILDING

The turning of the sword into the plough share has its modern interpretation in the little town of Croydon (England), where a new street was built of German steel helmets, captured during the war. To build the road required tens of thousands of these war trophies which were crushed into place by a steam roller. We can hardly term this unique way of utilizing the head gear of our late enemies an experiment as that would indicate a repetition of the war—which Heaven forbid—to secure more such trophies, but such a road will at least be a permanent warning of the uselessness of pitting against the strength of democracy as exemplified in the British Empire.

CANADIAN MUNICIPALS ON THE ENGLISH MARKET

There would seem to be some dissatisfaction amongst one or two British holders of Regina's bonds because of the refusal of that city—on the advice of its legal adviser—to pay the interest other than as stipulated on the bond itself, namely £2 10s. on each £100. The English bond holders maintain that they are entitled to the enhanced value of the Canadian dollar and offer as evidence that under the Canadian Exchange Act the £ is always worth \$4.86-2. As a matter of fact this Act was passed as a matter of convenience when currency was more rigid than what it is today, and it is not workable at the moment. There is also another side to the problem which has evidently escaped the attention of the English investor in Canadian municipals, namely that while at the present moment the English money market is in favor of Canada the American money market is against us, consequently, the Canadian municipals payable in New York are at a discount. It is hardly fair then to expect the City of Regina, or any other Canadian municipality to forego the opportunity of taking advantage of the decreased value of the pound sterling, when they have to pay increased interest on their issues in New York, because of the increased value of the American dollar over that of the Canadian dollar. It must be remembered that during the last ten years a much larger proportion of Canadian municipals have been placed on the American than on the English market so that on the whole Canadian municipalities are heavy losers by the fluctuation in international exchange.

NEW MINISTER A MUNICIPAL MAN

The appointment of the Hon. L. G. Wigmore to the government adds one more name to the long list of leading public men in Canada who received their training and first experience in public life in the municipal arena. Mr. Wigmore was for some time Commissioner of St. John, N.B., when that city adopted the commission form of government and it was his remarkable success in local administration that brought the new minister to the favorable notice of the St. John's electorate, when he became a candidate for the House of Commons. In his larger responsibility Mr. Wigmore carries the good wishes of all municipal men.

THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC OF ONTARIO

The recent demonstration of representatives of 240 municipalities in favor of the further extension of Ontario's Hydro-Electric development was a remarkable vote of confidence in Sir Adam Beck and his colleagues on the Commission, particularly when it is taken into consideration that it is the municipalities themselves that guarantee the bonds. The Provincial Government before giving its permission to the Hydro Commission to issue bonds for the amount required for the further development—about \$6,000,000—has appointed a special commission to investigate into the working of the Hydro-Electric Commission itself.

Such action is sharply resented by Sir Adam Beck as interfering unnecessarily with the work of himself and his colleagues and as already pointed out, he is strongly backed up by those who are in reality the guarantors of the Hydro-Electric bond issues—namely the municipalities buying the power, and as the same municipalities comprise almost the whole of rural and urban Ontario, it is evident Sir Adam is strongly entrenched in his resentment. The Premier gives as an excuse for the attitude of his government—"Safety First"—the inference being that the Hydro-Electric has advanced so rapidly as to call for investigation into its finances, which to say the least, is strange, considering that from the first, continuous audits have been made by the Provincial government of all the activities of the Hydro Commission, including the administration of its finances. How far the government was influenced in its decision by interested parties we do not know but those who have sympathetically followed the building up of this wonderful public-owned public utility, know well what its management has had to meet with carping criticism, particularly from those who are scared of public ownership eating into the profits of private interests. This same carping criticism would seem to have influenced the usual good judgement of Premier Drury in a way that cannot help but please the enemies of Ontario's Hydro, without benefiting the development itself.

"HAVE" AND "SHOULD"

By some strange process of reasoning "have" and "should" are used as synonyms in much that is said nowadays on the subject of roads. An official prominently identified with road building on a very large scale stated some time ago that certain types of roads **have** proved to be uneconomical as shown by actual experience, and that economy prompted the adoption of another and less thoroughly tested type which **should** prove to be far more enduring.