

THE CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL

A REVIEW OF CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

City of Montreal and
United States - \$1.25

Canada, Great Brit-
ain and Countries
in Postal Union - \$1.00

Published Monthly by

The Canadian Municipal Journal Co., Limited

HARRY BRAGG

President

FREDERICK WRIGHT

Editor

All communications to be made to Canadian Municipal
Journal

CORISTINE BUILDING, MONTREAL
Telephone Main 4362

Any article appearing in
these pages may be re-
produced provided full
credit is given to the
Journal.

Although the Canadian Municipal Journal is the Official Organ of the Union of Canadian Municipalities and other bodies named below, yet these are not responsible for any other matter published in it than what in each article or itself is stated to be authorized by either of these bodies

Official Organ of the Union of Canadian Municipalities

"Municipal from cover to cover"

Circulates in every city, town and village

Vol. XII

JULY, 1916

No 7

CONTENTS.

Public Health Conference	396	City Clerk Elliot (Ajax)	405
U. C. M. Convention	396	U. C. M. Convention	406
Tax the Land (Henry Timmis)	398	Municipal Dwellings	407
Affairs in B. C. (J. Loutet)	400	Canada's Future (E. A. Victor)	407
Municipal Legislation in Alberta	401	Disposal of Sewage	408
A Great Ambition	401	Bond Dealers' Associations	409
Civic Government (C. J. Yorath)	402	What is a Bureau of Municipal Research?.....	411
Municipal World Garden	403	The Tax Payer (Robson Black).....	412
Britain's Daylight Saving Act.....	403	Collection and Disposal of Manure.....	414
Better Use of Sunday (J. S. Woodsworth)	404		

The Civic Improvement Movement

We were recently studying a pamphlet issued by the Civic Improvement League of Halifax which gives a synopsis of its ten years' work. The history of this association is one continuous record of public service well done, without ostentation and without price, so that Halifax might become the "city beautiful" not only in its front gardens but in its back yards. It would seem that everything has been attempted, and much done, to eliminate the 'social evil' spots that they seem to have even down East. But there is one part of the report which does not make good reading, and it is because other local improvement leagues have gone, or are going through the same process that we specially refer to it, namely that there is a strong tendency on the part of a certain class of people to enthuse over something new—from horse racing to social welfare—and then just as quickly drop it. This has been the experience in Halifax.

The fault to our mind in the fluctuating support given to these social and civic movements lies with the promoters themselves, who do not seem to realize that the average citizen is a much better informed man today on civic and social questions than what he was yesterday, and consequently he rightly represents the paternal methods of those who would 'hygienize' or 'town plan' him whether he will or no. With a goodly number of enthusiasts, civic improvement would seem to be a fad or a disease, certainly with many of them it is just a hobby for the moment, and it would be much better for the movement if these people had taken up something else to amuse them. It is a very different thing to

the earnest students of civic government and social welfare. To them civic improvement stands for something worth while—the bettering of the conditions under which we live, by appealing to the commonsense of the community. But the average citizen knows little or nothing of the civic improvement movement in Canada for the reason that its objects have never been brought home to him in every day language. He has a vague idea that it is an organization for men and women to pat each other on the back; he has no concrete knowledge that the success or failure of civic improvement leagues affect him personally. Neither will he until the literature of the organization, in plain language, is put into his hands in his own home. At the present moment all the civic improvement literature is sent only to those already interested, which means much wasted energy. If the gospel of civic improvement is worth anything at all, it is worth preaching from every pulpit and in every house in the community.

To revert to the Halifax City Improvement League. We note that the directors want 1000 members. We would suggest that if they were to send a copy to EVERY household in Halifax they would soon get the required thousand members, for their record speaks for itself, and cannot but appeal to the extent of at least the dollar asked—the price of membership.

U. C. M. CONVENTION.

"I always look forward to the Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities. It has an atmosphere which is inspiring to all engaged in municipal work. I hope that there will be a large attendance and that the event will be abundantly successful."