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10. Permanent conference of state and municipal executives.

11. Return of troops to local draft boards for demobilization.

I have nowhere seen the argument for organization more effectively put than in the recent letter sent out by the Hon. Elihu Root, former secretary of state, to the members of the American Bar Association. In it he said:

"It is plain that the whole world has entered upon a period of re-examination and development of political and juridical systems. Nowhere is this period of development more critical than in the United States.

In this juncture the highest duty of service to the country rests upon the Bar. Their knowledge, their training, their fitness to lead opinion, should be utilized to the utmost. This duty cannot be effectively performed by lawyers acting singly each by himself. It must be by association. In modern times it is only by the power of association that the men of any calling exercise their due influence in the community.

For the performance of this duty a great agency already exists in the American Bar Association..... Its organization runs into every state. Its members are of every section, of every political party, of every radical inheritance. There are many excellent state and local Bar Associations, but the new questions are national, not local. It is the American Bar which is called upon to think and to form and lead opinion nationally and not locally.

Will you not urge upon your associates at the Bar who are not already members this view of their opportunity and duty and bring them into this great Association for the public benefit?"

It is important, nay imperative that the men carrying on municipal administration should be efficient, strong and skilled and that they should be assisted in performing their functions by an interested and high-minded citizenship. What preparations are we making for the future demands upon us? Are we training the men who are to run our governmental machinery? Are we developing professional standards among our public servants? In America it has been a matter of common knowledge that for years the patent office has been a sort of government

training school for patent lawyers, who go into private practice or private employment at about the same time their training has made them valuable to Uncle Sam. The same thing occurs in our cities. Office holding therein is all too frequently merely a stepping stone to some other field of usefulness; whereas the city should be regarded as the field of greatest present day opportunity.

There is just as much ability, as much capacity for effective municipal government in Canada and the United States as anywhere in the world and this end can be best promoted by bodies like the Union of Canadian Municipalities and the National Municipal League and by the proposed International Municipal League, originally suggested by the Canadian Union, and whose organization should be proceeded with, now that the war is happily over.

The future is uncertain and these are days of unrest. The time has come to give earnest thought and close attention to the questions which are closest to the people's welfare—such questions as housing, city planning, clean amusements should be brought home to those with official responsibility and to every man, woman and child.

Much of the future development depends upon the solution of the municipal problems, and organization is needed to improve municipal life. I do not need to point out to you the necessity of municipal union. It is apparent already but I want you to consider this question: "Are Canadian cities equipped to meet the problems of the times?" The Union should be an inspiration to Canadians to realize that something is being done to make their cities better places in which to live.

In conclusion let me offer a word of eulogy to W. D. Lighthall, K. C., the distinguished honorary secretary-treasurer of the Union of Canadian Municipalities whose retirement is foreshadowed in his annual address. The Union owes perhaps a greater debt to Mr. Lighthall than is realized at present. It was he who has shown the way to larger usefulness, and he has been the source and mainspring of your activities. May he be spared many more years of usefulness to all those causes which are working for a greater Canada, a greater America, a more closely knit world, not the least of which is that child of his brain and his unselfish effort—the Union of Canadian Municipalities.