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The City and the Natural Resources of Canada

The cities and towns of New Brunswick must be extremely modest. In an otherwise excellent brochure of ninety-two pages on the province (published by the Natural Resources Intelligence Branch of the Dept. of the Interior) four pages are given to a description of the eighteen cities and towns. Included in these four pages are two illustrations which take up about a page, leaving three pages of letter press to describe the urban centres, in which the larger part of the province's population get their living. According to the title page the department had the assistance of Federal officers, Provincial officers, Tourist associations, Boards of Trade and local business firms, so it cannot be for lack of assistance that the information is so meagre regarding the cities and towns. It looks rather like the case of the elephant after much labor bringing forth a mouse.

The objection we have to this kind of treatment of the urban life of the Dominion in the Federal government publications — the brochure on New Brunswick is typical of the other provinces — is that a wrong conception is given of the relative importance of town and country in the development of the resources of the country.

Those who know Canada only from the official publications have a hazy idea that her wonderful resources are developed in the country places, that her cities and towns are more adjuncts, their people occupied in industries not necessarily indigenous to the country, whereas as a matter of fact the industrial centres of Canada — which mean the cities and the towns — can only be described as the centralized human energy that is developing the natural re-

sources of the Dominion. The country places represent the development of one industry only—that of agriculture. All her other basic industries must in their final stages be developed at points where, with the combination of the human element and transportation facilities, the industries can be commercialized, so that the city or town is just as important to the development of the natural resources of Canada as the districts in which the resources are actually located, consequently no description of any of the provinces is complete with fuller descriptions of the urban centres.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE.

Over 50,000 men and women are giving the whole or part of their time to the government and administration of municipal Canada. Out of this large army not five per cent receive any remuneration, and even those who do receive a fee barely cover expenses with it, yet there is no body of public servants that receive so little consideration from the press and the public.

To carry out the duties of a mayor or alderman requires not only time but concentration of thought and energy to such an extent that the holder of public office often unfits himself for his own business, and which he sometimes gives up altogether so that he can better serve the community. We sometimes wonder what is the law of compensation for such sacrifice on the altar of public opinion — for sacrifice it is — and we have come to the conclusion that with the average mayor and alderman the great incentive is personal satisfaction in being able to serve his neighbors.