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A DOMINION INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL.

It is rumored that one of the recommendations of the Industrial Commission to the government will be for the appointment of an Industrial Council to enable capital and labor to get together for the free discussion of the present situation. It seems to us that such a council will not be complete unless there is an equal representation of the municipal councils as representing the communal life and social conditions of the country. The day is past when capital and labor had just each other and each self to consider. Both have a responsibility to the community or state and as Canada is a country of great distances, with varying local social and economic conditions — such conditions being best known to the local authorities — it is only reasonable to assume that no lasting equitable arrangement can be brought about in regard to the industrial situation in Canada without due consideration being given to the living conditions of ALL workers, and organized labor as such has never seriously taken up this phase of the question. As already pointed out in these pages none of the labor unions in Canada have ever taken part in or even studied the social, economic, educational or political life of the Dominion; their activities evidently being confined to wages and the working conditions of their own members. Due consideration then can only be given to the study of this most important phase of the industrial problem — the living conditions of the citizens — by municipal men who by reason of their being in daily touch with the people are specially qualified to act.

There is no doubt that the Industrial Commission itself would have been strengthened by the addition of a municipal representative, who would have been able to interpret many of the local causes of the industrial unrest much better than did the commission as constituted because of the limitation of its make-up. Time and time again was evidence given showing the varying of rates of wages in the different parts of the country, which unless locally analyzed would give a wrong impression of any given local situation. For instance, in some parts of the country while wages were less than in other parts the cost of living was less too, such local conditions being brought about largely by the local councils. It is hoped then that the government will realize that the *municipal councils* are a factor in the industrial life of Canada and that in any Dominion council that may be appointed to consider the question they, the *municipal councils*, will be fully represented.