

**AN APPRECIATION FROM SENATOR DAVID.**

City Hall, Montreal, June 11th, 1915.

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest your editorial on the "Municipalities and the Unemployed. Your views are entirely in accord with the resolution which I moved in the Senate at the end of last session, and which was adopted unanimously, and with the views which I have so often expressed in the last forty years. Yes, forty years ago I commenced to ask that some aid should be given to the prospective poor settlers, especially in wooded districts where the clearing of the land is so difficult. Thousands of people would be happy to establish themselves on our land if they had the means of doing it.

I have also read with interest the article written by Major Stephens. . . . Such writings do much good.

Yours truly,

(Signed) L. O. DAVID.

**CIVIC GOVERNMENT MORE THAN BUSINESS.**

To quote from an article in the "Public," one reason for "the unsatisfactory condition of municipal government in the United States is our practice of putting complicated business in inexperienced hands." The intimation is strong that the hands should be trained in commercial methods before they are intrusted with the operation of commercial enterprises. "The Canadian Municipal Journal," in commenting on this opinion, deprecates the notion that administrators should be trained in commercial methods, stating that the true civic spirit is fostered by concentration upon administrative qualities rather than through attempting to develop those which go to make success in the commercial world. Our municipal as well as our Federal government has matters of grave importance to claim the attention of public officials and their energies should not be diverted for the performance of purely commercial kinds of work. In other words, the function of government is to administer and regulate, but not to manufacture and trade.—Municipal Ownership.

**PETITION TO GOVERNMENT FROM AUSTRIAN RESIDENTS.**

Nine hundred Austrians resident in Port Arthur and Fort William, through the Mayors who had come to Ottawa to attend a meeting of the Union of Canadian Municipalities on the problem of unemployment, have petitioned the Prime Minister asking that steps be taken to secure employment for them. Because of their nationality they assert they are refused work. In return for it they pledge faithful labor. The petitioners say they left Austria because of conditions there, and came to Canada because of regarding it as a better country to live in. In its development they wish to assist. They want work to that end, and also to overcome the indignity of accepting charity.

**THE SHIP OF BUSINESS.**

A municipality is like a business ship ploughing through waters of competition. The rocks which threaten wreck are carelessness, laxity and waste. The ship sinks—the concern fails—not through the big holes staved in the sides. Those are apparent. All hands rush to them, and danger can be met and averted. It is the little leaks, the scarcely perceptible cracks, which mean sure wreck. Those are overlooked. In time they cause the whole ship to be submerged. They sink it. Stop the little leaks. Watch for them. Keep the machinery well oiled, and make all hands work in harmony. Let the man in the pilot house have absolute power. Then steer a straight course for the port of efficiency—which is the harbor of success.

**ENGLISH MUNICIPALITIES RUN RACE MEETINGS.**

In England at least two of the municipalities derive considerable income from racing. In Doncaster where the race meetings are run directly by the Council, the profits are usually sufficient to pay for all local improvements. In Chester the city derives one eighth of the gross receipts, which this year, on account of the war, was considerably less than previous years, amounting to \$6,625.

**TORONTO'S RESTAURANTS.****Marked Improvement—They Are Now a Credit to Any Great City.**

Within the last two years the restaurants of Toronto have improved to such a great extent, that one scarcely recognizes them as the same places they formerly were.

The improvement is especially noticeable in the cleanliness and order of kitchens, the improved quality of foods and the cleanliness of employees and utensils. These advances have been gradually brought about since the fall of 1913, when special regulations were passed compelling restaurant proprietors to provide certain equipment and maintain a permanent standard of cleanliness; and since the passing of these regulations many large concerns have opened spacious and sanitary restaurants which are a credit to the city and the country.

In these places cleanliness of premises, employees and food is maintained at the very highest standard and leaves very little to be desired.

The improvement is even more noteworthy among the foreign element who come here from other countries where cleanliness and sanitation seem to be unknown—judging by what the inspectors used to find in their restaurants. In the past chaos and filth abounded, but at the present time they are gradually learning the value of cleanliness and are daily improving in every way.

The progress made in these places will be more readily seen by a comparison of the following figures. In 1913, 133 prosecutions were entered for dirty premises and unsound food; in 1914 there were only 38. In 1913 the Restaurant Inspectors condemned 3,000 lbs. of meat and fish, 7 gals. milk, and 2,959 tins of canned goods; but in 1914 they only had to condemn 1,700 lbs. of meat, fish and poultry and 500 tins of canned goods.

This shows that the aggressive inspections and educational campaign carried on by the Department of Public Health have had their effects in these two most important phases of restaurant work.

One other thing worth mentioning is: that where the Department and inspectors were formerly regarded as enemies, they are now welcomed as friends, and the proprietors have found out that cleanliness in all respects means increased cash receipts.

**PREPARE NOW FOR BUSY TIMES.**

Owing to the phenomenally rapid growth of Canadian cities and towns there are many details which by virtue of the development they have experienced, have been necessarily overlooked. We refer to works that may hardly be called urgent, and yet that cannot be considered unimportant. Now is a more suitable time than any period in recent years for the cleaning up of odds and ends, and the proper recording of completed and projected work in a municipality.

One feature that has been sadly overlooked by our cities and towns is that of underground survey. Very little attention has been paid to recording the underground location of water and gas mains, etc. It has resulted in numerous financial losses throughout Canada, many of which may be accounted for in the following way: A city decides to undertake, for example, the redistribution of water mains. Very properly, a consulting engineer is called in to advise the municipal authorities on the scheme. One of the first requisities is a partial underground survey of existing mains. The information is needed in a hurry, and such a survey is frequently such a hasty one as to be so inaccurate that it is not only misleading, and a cause of delay, but a cause of considerable expense. If proper records had been on file a saving of considerable time would have been effected and the cost of the project reduced.

Owing to the small amount of construction work, many municipalities have discharged their engineers during the past few months. The casualties are pretty well distributed over the entire Dominion, but are so frequent, and the procedure so epidemic in nature, that it is becoming no disgrace for a municipal engineer to entertain thoughts of engaging in some other field of work. A most regrettable feature of the situation is that there is plenty of work for the municipal engineer to do, but it is unlike that upon which he has been for years engaged, in that it does not involve the expenditure of large sums of money. City councils have formed the habit of basing the value to them of their engineering department upon the annual expenditures incurred by that department upon new undertakings, such as waterworks, sewerage systems, paving, etc. Now that there is a lull, existing works are expected to run themselves in many instances.—Canadian Engineer.