

"As a federal district, containing the executive offices of Parliament and of the Government, it would naturally attract people of wealth and leisure, and would become the centre of intellectual culture, because of its educational and social advantages, without arousing a feeling of jealousy amongst the other provinces of the Dominion.

"In carrying out the policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, to make Ottawa the Washington of the North; the creation of a district would enable the Government to achieve that object unhampered by conflicts with local and provincial jurisdictions. Parliament would have power to enact exclusive legislation over the federal district, while delegating executive authority to a commission.

"Under a federal commission continuity of policy is assured; the expenditure of public money on more scientific and economical principles is secured, free from the debasing influence of ward heelers, partisan politicians, and would-be chairmen of committees,

"A Commission would secure the services of men of broader views, better business training and ability, who, while exercising to a certain extent, autocratic powers, would still be amenable to the criticisms of an independent press and intelligent public opinion, and at the same time be uninfluenced by place hunters, transient excitement and the clamour of professional agitators."

THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE

On these questions, the members of the Unity Club, and their fellow citizens, may have to pronounce again in the not distant future, and I feel certain that their votes will be cast in favour of a policy which will materially contribute to the advancement of the city of Ottawa.

Let me express, in conclusion, my obligations to the members of this Club for the honour they have done me in asking me to address them on this subject. Possibly, by some, the time may be regarded as somewhat inopportune to discuss the particular question which I have presented to you. If any blame is attachable for suggesting now a readjustment of the relations between the city and the federal authority, at a time of financial stringency, then the committee of the Unity Club must assume a share of the responsibility. The subject was allotted to me, and I have endeavoured to present my views in a manner to assist both the citizens and the Government to solve the problem when the proper time comes. In the meantime, I can only say that the action of the Unity Club in arranging for this course of lectures on civic topics, can only have beneficial results.