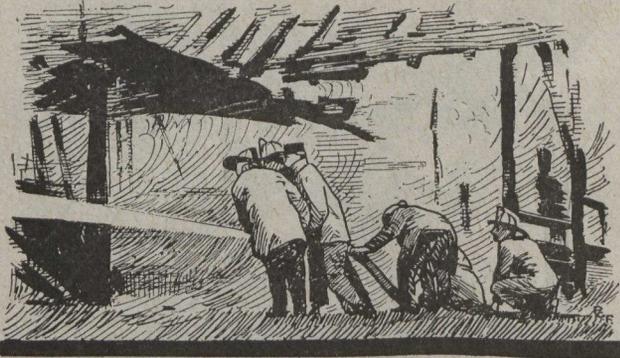


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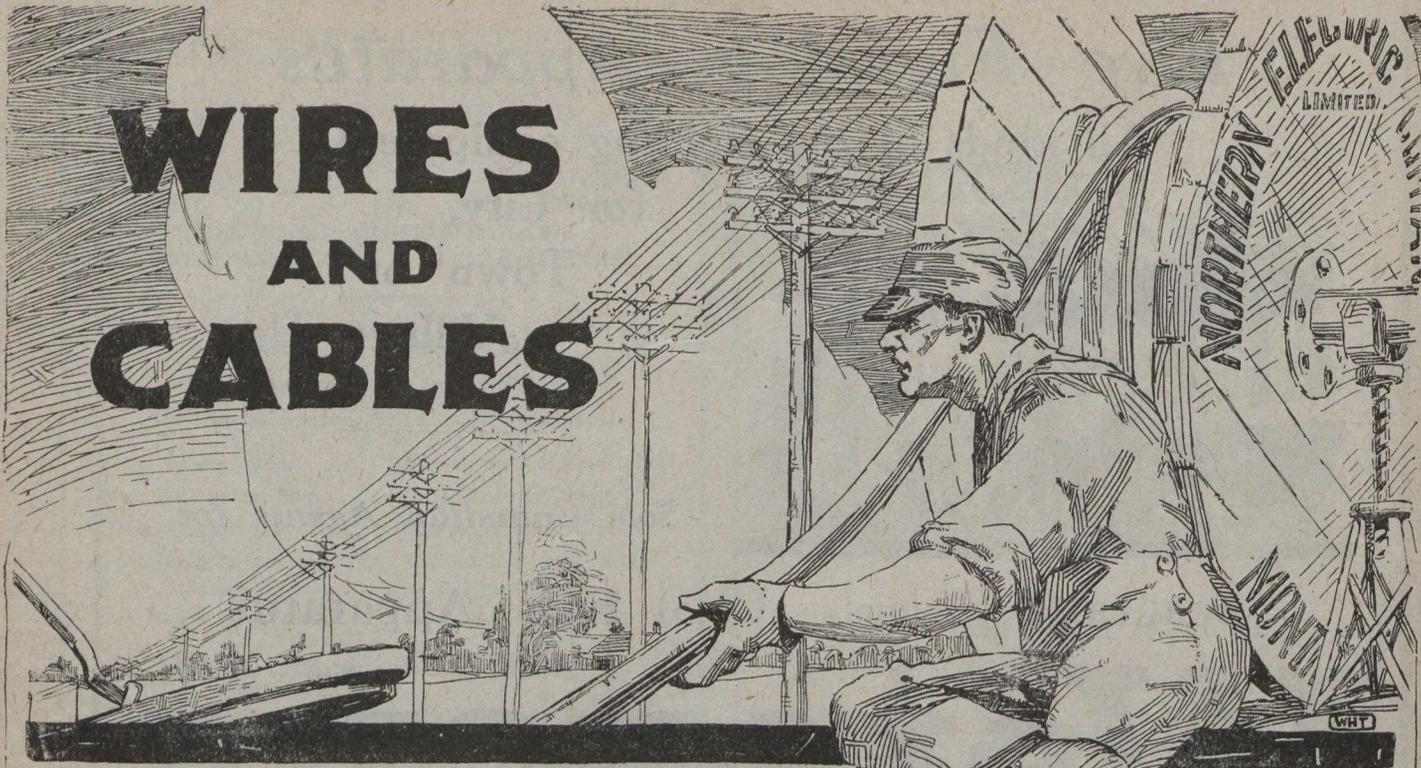
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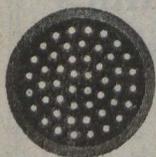
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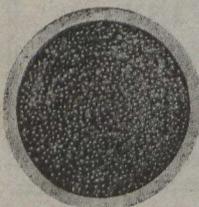
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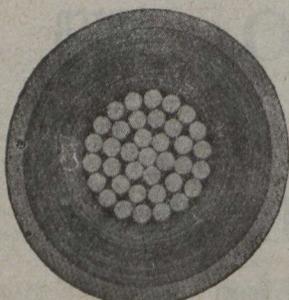
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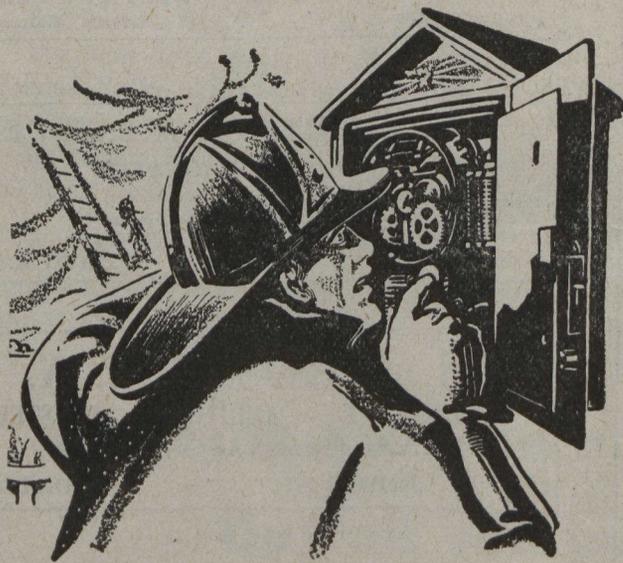
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CULTIVATION ALONG CONSTRUCTIVE LINES.

A short time ago a remarkable demonstration took place just outside Montreal. It was a demonstration of ploughing by tractors—the remarkable part being that there was not a farmer on the job. In other words, it was the outward and visible sign of the determination of a number of building contractors to utilize their men, under the management of an engineer and the guidance of an agricultural professor, to cultivate the land for wheat growing on a large scale. The genius and organizer of the whole scheme is a Montreal contractor (Mr. J. P. Anglin), who, after trying in vain to induce the Government to adopt his ideas—that is, to utilize the vacant lands of Canada, in 10,000 acre lots for the growing of the wheat so much wanted in Europe—he formed an association of private citizens to carry out the plan on a smaller scale. And the demonstration was the first step towards the consummation.

At first sight it would seem ridiculous that such a scheme could be made to pay—city mechanics and engineers working the land—but worked on a large scale as planned by Mr. Anglin, there is absolutely no reason against its success. The plan as laid before the government, was to take so many areas of land, of 10,000 acres each, in different parts of the country, and cultivate that land on the same principles as constructing a building, a public work or a railroad, but instead of an architect or engineer being made responsible for the work an agricultural expert takes charge, the job being carried out by different contractors, who being used to the control of large bodies of men, would know how to get the best out of each man and tractor. The object of the scheme, of course, was to produce more wheat, and had the Government been wise and adopted the scheme when offered some eighteen months back, at least 3,000,000 bushels of wheat would have been added to Canada's crop of last year, which would have the effect, if nothing more, of keeping down the present excessive price of bread. But like many other good schemes, it was turned down, largely because of the opposition from the farmers, who rightly saw in it the cutting down of wheat prices. It is hoped that Mr. Anglin will persist in wearing down these selfish objections, and until the powers at Ottawa see the necessity of his plan, which is big in vision and practical in carrying out.

CITY MEN JOIN HANDS TO FARM RURAL IDLE LANDS.

The tractor and the contractor idea of farming idle land, begun in Montreal, is catching on throughout Canada.

In Chatham, Kent County, Ontario, a meeting of business men recently decided to form a syndicate to finance and operate the cultivation of one thousand or more acres of land near that city.

Many city men in Canada have farms and run them as hobbies, creating cordial relations between the city and the rural districts, but these individual enterprises are not as worth while nationally as the formation of a syndicate of ten or more business men in the city to cultivate an extensive tract of farm land.

In the former case only one man gets the benefit and even in his case the benefit is more in the saving of doctor's bills than in stimulating production and demonstrating advanced methods of cultivation.

But when ten or more city men, contributing \$250 apiece, go in for farming one thousand acres with a tractor and on a contractor and business like organization, a community of interest is created which means much for production and the inevitable application of the most approved methods of farming.

In most cities a dozen leading business men all united on a project, pretty fairly express the latent judgment of

all the citizens. This syndicate formed by the tractor and contractor idea makes tangible the best public opinion in the city. The effect of getting the business men and the city interested in the development of a rural area of idle land is impossible to calculate. They will make their farming a success for their pride will be in the effort. They have wrung success from the business world, and by the same principles they will achieve success in farming. Who can doubt it?

Thus, the problems of the farmers, and they are many, will soon be understood by the business men of the city, and a new order of brains will be applied to their solution to the advantage of the farmers and the city men turned farmers. Better understanding between residents of the country and residents of the city will be established to the lasting improvement of national life.

Chatham is the first Ontario city to evince a public spirit commensurate with the Imperial and imperative need of the Allies for greater food supplies from Canada. The working out of this syndicate of business men applying the tractor and contractor methods of farming idle lands will be watched with interest throughout Canada.

What city will be next?

THE CANADIAN ANNUAL REVIEW.

The seventeenth edition of Mr. J. Castell Hopkins' "Canadian Annual Review," which has just been published, is a splendid continuation of a splendid national work. As a record of Canadian achievement during the last decade and a half the "Annual Review" is unique in the sense that each public event has been placed in its proper niche in the great fane of Canadian development, and each factor in the building thereof been given its true value. For the first time we are to know that Mr. Hopkins has himself written the whole of the seventeen volumes. What this means in time, in study and in patience can best be understood when it is stated that each volume represents over 800 pages of closely packed material so interwoven as to actually give pleasure in the reading. Such a work can only be done successfully by a man so thoroughly versed in his subject as to be in love with it. And this is Castell Hopkins.

Since hostilities commenced in 1914 the Canadian Annual Review has rightly given much of its space to Canada's part in the war, and most of the new volume (1917) is naturally taken up with the one great subject—the mobilization of Canada to win the war. The history and formation of the Union Government the Military Service Act; the attitude of Quebec towards conscription; the O'Connor investigation; are all described. To better attune the mind of the reader to what is involved by the war the first part of the volume is a perspective of the world situation in 1917: Chronology of the War, and the British Empire in the War. Mr. Hopkins then delves into this country's share as a nation and by provinces. The work of the great organizations and societies are recorded. The progress of education and the position of labour are noted; in fact, everything that happened in Canada in 1917 that could possibly have had any effect in the mobilization of the country for national and especially war purposes is well handled by Mr. Hopkins—except one thing. Nothing is said of the part that municipal Canada played in the great war game during 1917. Here we must digress for a moment. Mr. Hopkins, in kindly sending the new volume for review, apologized for not giving any space to municipal affairs this year in his "Annual Review," because of the overshadowing by bigger events. Of municipal events, as such, being ignored in a national review that is given over to the war we cannot, perhaps, say much, but we would draw the attention of Mr. Hopkins to the fact that as a unit municipal Canada—outside the Federal Government—was the biggest factor in the mobilization of the country for war purposes in 1917, in insuring citizen soldiers, in subscription to the Patriotic and Red Cross Funds, and in buying Victory bonds. Beyond this criticism we have nothing but praise to give to Mr. Hopkins for his really national production which this year, if anything, is better than its predecessors.

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Municipal Fair Prices Committee

In last month's issue we urged that the Order in Council dealing with the prices of food stuffs be rescinded in favour of another one giving more power and responsibility to local councils. This has since been done, and it is now right up to the local authorities to seize their opportunity to eliminate the inate suspicion that profiteering in food has been and is being practised on the Canadian people. Under the new Order each Council is asked to appoint a Fair Price Committee, whose first duty will be to investigate retail prices and then publish their findings in the local press. This will at once enable the citizens to know whether or not their local dealers are dealing fairly with them. What is more, the continual publication of what the local Committee considers fair prices will certainly have the effect of checking the would-be profiteer, in food substitutes. But if publicity fails to check the profiteer then the committee has the splendidly effective weapon of summary jurisdiction, which in Australia, has done more than anything else to keep prices of food down to normal profits.

How far the Municipal Councils will take advantage of the new Order remains to be seen. Some of our mayors have already made a protest against what they consider, the onus of an unpleasant responsibility being thrust upon them at the eleventh hour. While we fully agree with these municipal executives, that it is late in the day to ask the councils to take over a duty in which the Federal authorities have signally failed, we do say, as emphatically as we can, that however late, every Municipal Council should take up the responsibility of seeing that the citizens resident within their respective communities are protected against excessive prices.

For those thousands of men and women who are forced to get their meals in restaurants, the Fair Price Committee can do much in reducing the present excessive charges which in a recent enquiry showed profits approximating 1,200 per cent.

The honest dealer will welcome a Fair Price Committee; the dishonest dealer will deserve all that is coming to him in the way of fines and imprisonment.

Owing to war conditions the building of houses, particularly for the working class, has been stopped with the subsequent raising of rents; not in proportion to capital outlay, which in property values has decreased, but because of increased demand. In other words, too many city landlords have taken advantage of war conditions to make excessive profits out of their tenants. Under the new Order-in-Council this worst kind of profiteering can be stopped too—and by the direct representatives of the tenants.

There are municipal men who are under the impression that municipal government in Canada is confined to the collection of taxes, and the building and maintenance of local public works. As a matter of fact, this is but a part of local government—and a small part at that. Every phase of citizenship affecting the community as a whole comes under the purview of the local council as representatives of the people, and we don't know of any phase more important at this time than the matter of the cost of living. Since the war broke out everything has increased in price, much more so than the average family income. This may be taken, and has been taken, as part of the price of war to be paid by those staying at home. But when advantage is taken of necessary increases in the price of foodstuffs to still further advance the cost for the benefit of the few dealers or manufacturers, and which will be to the detriment of the already extra-burdened consumers, a sharp lesson is needed. And now that they have the power, the councils should not hesitate to act when necessary, though we believe that the publication of a fair price list will be quite sufficient to deter the evil-doer. Only the Fair Price Committees cannot be appointed too soon.

The Spanish "Flu" Epidemic

Canada, in spite of the healthfulness of the climate has not escaped the terrible scourge of Spanish influenza. Not a single community has escaped, but thanks to the energetic measures taken, to stamp out the disease, what might have been a national calamity has been averted, though the danger is not over by any means. The lesson brought home to practically every community by the epidemic is that our public health systems want much reforming. In very few cases were the local public health departments prepared, though there was plenty of notice given, for before it reached Canada the Spanish "flu" had almost travelled the world and had it not been for the volunteers who came up splendidly though not called for until the last moment, many communities would have been hard put to it to even combat the disease much less control it.

We would suggest to the Canadian Public Health

Association that it has a splendid opportunity to investigate the epidemic and its causes with a view of bettering the system under which our medical officers of health work. It must be remembered that having once appointed their medical official the municipal council is largely in his hands, hence his greater responsibility to keep the mayor and aldermen not only in constant and close touch with local health and hygienic conditions but well informed with comparative data of other communities. Up to the visitation of the present epidemic the average report of the local health officer was a sorry affair. Perhaps the epidemic has brought home to these public servants that they have a duty to the community, other than merely recording the number of cases of sickness, reported by other local medical men. An office boy can do this.

Social Evils

A committee of Montreal citizens, who have been investigating the vice conditions of Canada's commercial metropolis, recently published their first report. This report, which of necessity was somewhat lurid in places, is a strong indictment of our economic and social systems, particularly as they effect young girls. In almost every community the young man would seem to have every protection—almost coddled—whereas for the young woman, who makes up the majority of our workers, there is little or no protection. With the average girl, because of our one-sided standard of social morality which says in effect, that man can do no wrong so far as the opposite sex is concerned, it is one continual struggle against temptation. With the working girl away from home it is one hell of an existence to keep from falling to the level of the prostitute. The miserable pay, the long hours, the gray life of the shop girl, the factory girl, the office girl, have proven great recruiting factors for the profession of prostitution. These and other causes are too often forgotten in the overwhelming shame of the woman. She becomes the outcast of society from whom we must **protect** our young men. She pays the price of her share of the sin but the man goes free—no stigma, attached to him.

There is no doubt about the situation in Montreal being bad, though the vice conditions as investigated by the citizens' committee are not peculiar to Canada's great seaport by any means. Every community has its own vice problem. Perhaps in a lesser degree than Montreal, but the problem is there nevertheless. The report urges the education of the public mind on the subject. This is quite right, for the public should know what a cancer of immorality it has on its body social, but when it suggests that an enlightened public opinion will help back the police to do their duty in eradicating the cancer, it is to condemn the present system of carrying out the law, which admittedly is weak. A house of prostitution is run for the profit of the keeper (usually a woman) the landlord, and the procurer—the girls are paid the least of all though they suffer all the diseases peculiar to the life. When a raid is made the keeper and the girls are

usually fined, and the proceeds, in the case of Montreal, being divided between the city and the Province. Last year the fines collected amounted to \$41,604. This means that both the city and province have in practice become unconscious partners in commercialized vice; the fines simply amounting to a special tax. This is not the fault of the law which, in the Province of Quebec, is stringent to satisfy the most rabid of moral reformers; the fault lies in the fact that the law is not carried out.

From reports of other investigations that have been made from time to time on this social disease, not only in Montreal, but in other communities, we have been forced to the conclusion that if a city, town or village has an efficient and honest police force no white slave traffic can prosper. The strict administration of the law, as it stands, by police and magistracy, will always inspire fear among the brothel keepers, and their parasites, the "pimps," or procurers. We believe that a little examination, of every "pimp" caught will bring him in that category of worse than thieves who can only be appealed to by the lash, well applied.

Montreal has a new police regime under the same man who made the fire department of the city famous for its efficiency. He has almost unlimited power delegated to him and there is absolutely no reason why he should not make Canada's commercial metropolis as clear of commercialized vice as other Canadian cities—without waiting for public opinion to back him up. He has a big job ahead of him, but we believe Director Tremblay is big enough for it.

While the police have a very definite duty in the suppression of vice where and when it exists, it is well to remind the churches and other Christian agencies that the task of suppression of vice—particularly prostitution—is getting harder each year. And the reason we take is that the great Christian tenet of virtue has lost much of its potency during these last few years. Every boy and girl brought up in the Christian faith is supposed to know the deeper meaning and significance of honor and virtue—and yet every prostitute claims to belong to some church, or at least was brought up in one. Why this laxity?

"OUR TE DEUM."

The great war is over—democracy has won. For over four years there has been raging in Europe a war that in its horrors and its glory has no counter-part in the history of the world—a war that brought out all the worst and all the best in the whole of mankind. Twenty divided nations sent many millions of men into the arena to fight to the death. On the one side were ranged the hosts of liberty; on the other the hosts of slavery. And liberty has won. It was the sacred word against the tricks of diplomacy. And the sacred word has won. It was right against might. And right has won. But what an awful price has been paid. While our temple of victory is filled with trophies millions of homes have been made desolate so that the future of mankind may be better, and in that category of glorious dead but desolate homes are the flower of Canadian manhood. Their comrades having fought equally well the good fight, but more fortunate will come home. Also will come home the wounded and the maimed—the derelicts of the half million men who went to Flanders to keep up the good name of Canada. How well they fought. The records of the Canadian troops in the war will always stand out in the annals of chivalry and bravery, and those of us fortunate enough to have someone in the ranks will indeed be proud to take credit, however indirect, for the mighty deeds of Canada's armies in the great war of 1914-18. But what of the future?

If our Te Deums means anything at all they mean deliverance from the worship of mammon and brute force as typified in the German creed of domination of might. They mean deliverance from the selfishness of the few who have enriched themselves at the expense of the many. They mean the right of the individual to live in the best sense of the term. They mean that greater responsibility has been put on those in authority to see that citizenship is made equally easy for the poor as the rich.

We in Canada have our special responsibilities—the re-education of our soldiers so that they can take their part in the rebuilding of the country, the welfare of those families whose fathers and sons have lost their lives on the field of battle, and the care of those wounded and maimed in the great cause of liberty. Better conditions for our workers must prevail in our industrial centres — better housing, better streets and more hygiene. Public life must be purer and better—the power of the private interests must be curtailed. All these things must be done, otherwise our men will have fought in vain.

ONTARIO HYDRO VINDICATION.

Mr. E. R. C. Clarkson, who was appointed by the Ontario Government to investigate the operations of the Provincial Hydro-Electric Commission, recently sent in his report up to October, 1917, in which he clearly vindicates the Commission and justifies public ownership of public utilities, when controlled by such men as Sir Adam Beck and his colleagues.

Referring to the Niagara power system Mr. Clarkson observes: "To October 31st, 1917, the rates collected by the Commission from forty-one

municipalities had been sufficient not only to meet operating cost and reserves for renewals, contingencies and sinking fund, but to leave a surplus of \$391,551.94. This amount has been retained by the Commission either as security for the payment of sinking fund charges or with a view to moderation in the rates charged to the municipalities which contributed. The rates collected from the remaining sixty-eight municipalities were insufficient by \$204,822.14 to pay operating expenses, and also meet the reserves for renewals and contingencies in respect of the proportion of capital cost of works and lines to be operated by them."

NEW PRESIDENT OF U. C. M.

DR. COSTELLO, Mayor of Calgary.

PAST PRESIDENT U. C. M.

MAYOR HARDY, Lethbridge.

Municipal Preparedness for War and Peace in the United States

CLINTON ROGERS WOODRUFF, Philadelphia.

When our boys come home from France, will they find their city government as clean, as honest, as efficient as the war machinery which the Federal government has created in such an incredibly short time under extraordinary conditions and with such marvellous results?

These are the questions which those at home must face and answer as satisfactorily as we expect and believe those at the front will answer the demands upon them!

Every individual, and every organization is now making a war record, just as is the soldier and the company of soldiers at the front, and this record must always stand a credit or a shame. As the president of a civic league in Florida has so pertinently declared, "If there was ever a reason for the existence of such an organization as this civic league, a body of citizens working together to increase the public interest in all matters relating to good citizenship, to improve local conditions, and to promote the general welfare, if there was any reason for our banding together four years ago, does that reason not exist to-day? Is it not increased many fold when need is threatening the very existence of entire nations, and no one can tell what tax will be put upon the resources of our own fair land?"

This is the spirit of every civic body, city, state and national, of which we have record. Increased civic activities are as essential to the winning of the war, as they are to the solution of the after war problems. "Hold the home lines," "Service in the home trenches," "Prepare for the boys when they come home," are some of the suggestive slogans inscribed on the banners of our civic forces. In the word our own Winston Churchill, "for the student of history who is able to place himself within the stream of evolution the really important events of today are not taking place on the battle lines, but behind them."

What is Municipal War Work?

Is a pressing question of immediate moment claiming the attention alike of city and federal administrations, for the war has made it both a municipal and a federal question. In these days of need for vast sums to equip and maintain our fighting forces our national government has of necessity assumed through the Federal Reserve Board the Capital Issues Committee and the War Finance Corporation a supervision and control over municipal finances (insofar as municipal borrowing is concerned) that forces new definitions and delimitations.

In a letter to the Chicago Plan Commission (dated Nov. 30, 1917) the president of the Chicago association of commerce said:

I have noticed in press reports that there is an apparent tendency to discourage consideration of some of the projects of the Chicago Plan Commission because of the war. . . . It is nevertheless, unfortunate, because while winning the war must be the predominant thought with all of our people, the victory will be a barren one if we have failed to conserve present worthy objects and forward consideration at least of the plans for the future.

The Chicago association of commerce has been giving its energy to whole-hearted support of the war problem. At the same time we have not shed the burdens of encouraging local business and civic effort. We have tried to profit by the experience of our allies. I believe that any study of the municipal and national affairs of the European countries who have been through three years of intensive warfare, will show conclusively that part of the war program was the planning of large municipal undertakings and extension of foreign and domestic trade.

This is in line with the best English and French thought on the subject. In the words of a Manchester, England, councillor, "pressure should be brought to bear on public authorities, national and local, to accomplish those things now, as, after the war, money will be in demand in too many other directions. . . . Cities must be urged to use to the full their existing powers, and it would not be surprising if, before long, these are considerably extended, to cut away the red tape of the treasury."

¹Annual review of the secretary of the National Municipal League.

John Cabburn, the associate editor of the "Municipal Journal" of London, writes that public libraries have been maintained although they once were threatened. Now, he says, "the tendency is to make greater use of them, especially in the direction of increasing their use to the trading and commercial community. Already some authorities have eaded commercial sections to their libraries. Owing to labor difficulties many branch libraries have been closed. Many libraries have ceased purchasing fiction, and some have closed the fiction department."

That our educational facilities must be maintained unimpaired is obvious, for upon them depends the future of civilization. Thus far there has been a general acquiescence in this view, although in the early days of her war time excitement and preparation there was a sentiment in Great Britain that everything would have to be abandoned that did not pertain directly to the creation and maintenance of the army; but saner counsels prevailed and they must continue to prevail here.

Foreign War Time Precedents.

Our allies, Great Britain and France, have established many war time precedents which we should follow, and which I think it can be said with accuracy we are preparing to follow (although sometimes slow and afar off). An American correspondent, writing from London to the "Journal of the American Institute of Architects," points out that in England's program of industrial preparation visioned in the Defence of the Realm Act, there are four factors of great importance. These warrant emphasis, for three years of experience have demonstrated that it is absolutely necessary for the state to exercise the powers therein set up. Broadly speaking, the first relates to that power which enabled the state to take for its own use whatever it required. That was an arbitrary power; but it was necessary. . . . It was not until 1916 that the Defence of the Realm (Acquisition of Land) Act, which set up the mechanism for handling this phase of the problem, was passed. This important piece of legislation includes such details as:

- Continuation of possession of land occupied for purpose of the defence of the realm;
- Power to remove buildings and works;
- Power to acquire land permanently;
- Power to sell land acquired under the Act;
- Provision as to highways;
- Provisions as to water, light, heat and power companies and authorities;
- Payment of compensation and purchase-money;
- Application of building laws.

Number six of the schedule is of vital importance, in the opinion of this observer, for it provides that:

In determining the amount of compensation, the value of the land acquired shall be taken to be the value which the land would have had at the date of the notice to treat if it had remained in the condition in which it was at the commencement of the present war, without regard to any enhancement or depreciation in value which may be attributed directly or indirectly to any buildings, work, or improvements, erected, constructed, or made on, over or under the land, or any adjoining or neighboring land for purposes connected with the present war wholly or partly at the expense of the state, or, with the consent of the occupying department, at the expense of any person not being a person interested in the land.

The second factor is that the state immediately assumed the initiative in production of munitions of war, and it is interesting to note that under the broad definition of munitions there are very few things produced which are not so included. The scope, therefore, of state activities in production was very wide. There was no waiting upon individual initiative; land, factories, houses, hostels, heat, light, power, clothing and transportation were provided. This correspondent writes:—

"As yet I have had but a glimpse of this great fabric of industrial preparation, but what I have seen leads me to state without hesitation that we have in America no

(Continued on Page 374.)

The Part of Food Control in Reconstruction

By ERNEST B. ROBERTS, Canada Food Board, Ottawa.

There are plenty of people in Canada to whom the word "reconstruction" is as meaningless as general mobilization and German depravity were in 1914. We do not see it, therefore we do not heed it. But reconstruction is as essentially part of what will come after the war as the restoration of our fighting men to their homes. Both must be organized, must be planned beforehand; they cannot be left to a haphazard chance. Things foreign to the British Empire as conscription was as late as 1915 are now integral parts of the national mode of thought.

What part can food control take in the vast remaking of Canada when peace once comes? It is hard to predict; as hard as it was in 1914 to predict that we should in 1918 be living under food regulation which runs from the Bay of Fundy to the White Horse Pass. We shall have to demobilize these food measures. Like the demobilization of the army it must be done with foresight or confusion will result. Indeed, it is conceivable — one hesitates to speak more than suggestively in things which are so new — that the number of those who must be fed from North America in the first few months at the close of the war may be greater than we have yet comprehended, and may demand even greater effort than we have to make at present. Food in Russia to-day borders the starvation stage. But we have at least the unction that we cannot reach these people; so we face no duty apparently. But when the means of entry are available, who shall say that our duty to feed a vast part of the 150,000,000 Russian people will not be as clear as to-day it is to feed the Belgian people? Then we know that until after the next harvest, when the returned soldiers have had time to settle into their home occupations, we cannot speak of a sufficiency of food in France, in Italy, in Great Britain, in Serbia, in Roumania, even in Bulgaria and it may be Turkey, while it is certain that the neutral countries, Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway will be in sore straits.

Under its authorization by the War Measures Act, the Canadian Food Board can only continue six months after the declaration of peace. One may imagine in the light of new conditions that that term will have to be extended. It will certainly be impossible to re-establish anything like normal conditions within so brief a span. Apart from this, there is the certainty that voluntary effort must continue. Restoring the world's food will take much longer than one season. Whether it would need a Food Board to direct what measures would then be necessary is another question. The essential thing is that we have come to regard food control and food rules which run into every home as a new factor for many possibilities in Canada.

The subject divides itself into two — the foreign phase, one of vast importance during the first few months following what we may predict will be the new Treaty of Berlin (more than the Disraeli-Salisbury pact, one of "peace with honor")! and the domestic phase, one of greater importance as the years roll on.

Canadian people have learned to eat less, to become more fit thereby, to eat more economically. They have learned to vary their diet more. They are less tied now to an all wheat, all white bread than formerly. They thus give a better chance to the small mixed farmer to make a living. This will tend to make the country more prosperous, and, in a small way, stem the rush of the rural population into the cities. In turn it will mean closer settlement, particularly in our Eastern districts, better farming and better roads, with all those amenities of civilization which today, above all epochs, are the consequence of good road travelling through the cheapening of motor cars. Then we have a new self-reliant feeling that city and near city gardens can be profitably worked; we have disabused the minds of people about the limitations of climate in producing vegetables, and we have got the Canadian-born to a point of enthusiastic self-help in horticulture which hitherto was the mark of the British newcomer. These surely are acquisitions which we cannot afford to lose the moment peace is declared.

Food control has so many advantages that it would be well if we could say it had come to stay. One among them would be its immense importance in solving some of the problems of poverty. That there will be poverty in some

districts immediately following peace, few people will deny. Everyone knows that money lightly earned is lightly spent, and despite the increase in the Savings Bank deposits, one may question whether it is commensurate with the unprecedented prosperity of the last twenty-four months. If, in wartime, we believe in actual saving of food through better distribution, through the avoidance of waste, were it not absurd to throw away that knowledge at any time? We cannot in decency take the short-sighted stand of the charity school boy, quoted by the Elder Weller, who doubted after he had learned the alphabet whether "it was worth going through so much to learn so little." If saving our national resources, saving child life, saving man-power (the term includes the new and mighty power of women), are part of our national reconstruction, it seems logical that a saving of that on which all these things must vitally depend should be accepted too.

Have we not set a higher standard for our retail food trades under food control? We know now how easily profiteering is controlled. The mere threat of publicity has been enough to check it among the greater trade corporations. There is no doubt that through the efficient working of Fair Price Committees and through the power of publicity in the local press, the feeling is spreading that it does not pay to be advertised as a profiteer. It will spread downwards to the smallest business. Perhaps fair price schemes will widen to include many other things besides foods and rent. The chief factor of restraint in excessive prices which is publicity, has been established and will be as useful in peace time as in war, for did not Burns put the simple Bible truth in homely language when he wrote:—

"The fear o' hell's a hangman's whip
To hold the wretch in order."

Regulated profits have also been accomplished through the working of the Food Board. It would be stupid to allow the principle to vanish immediately peace comes, only to revert to the old creed of trade. What the new order may be when "the old order changeth, yielding place to new" cannot be foreseen. But the greater national conscience will not suffer a moral reversion to the old style. It may be that excessive profits will be controlled by a system of super-taxation, to which there was a strong tendency in Great Britain under Mr. Lloyd George's budget of eight years ago. It is, however, for the good sense of the people to work out.

Better food distribution, the prevention of hoarding and hogging, working through the existing body of food retailers, might be considered things worth perpetuating. To the objection that it might interfere with the "right of the individual," the reply may be made that what before the war we were apt to regard with a hyper-sense of democracy as "interference," is just a thing which war taught us was laxity and lack of control by which profiteering and other forms of selfishness became possible. We may have to sacrifice the old pet notion of "liberty of the individual" for the broader idea of "service of the individual." Service and usefulness, rather than get-rich-quickableness should count for more. The improved bookkeeping which has been imposed by the Food Board methods on many small traders should compensate them for some of the difficulties; accuracy of record and proper discrimination between paying and non-paying goods on the grocery shelves will take the place of the old cry "The Consumer Pays."

These are only some suggestions which the writer puts forward entirely in a personal capacity for the consideration of others. Food Board work has been pioneer work in every country; it is a new science. It has not been tested in peace, but it seems, even on the face of it, a most necessary instrument in that big transition stage from the break-up of war and the rebuilding of half the continent which we shall know in the glad time which is to come as "reconstruction."

NOTE:—The above article gives the personal suggestions of Mr. C. B. Roberts as to what food control might do in peace time.—Editor.

17th Annual Convention of Union of Canadian Municipalities, Victoria, B.C.

JULY 9th, 10th and 11th.

The first part of the Report appeared in the October issue.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10TH.

The President, Mayor W. D. Hardie, of Lethbridge (Alberta), in the chair.

Keeping up of Municipal Credit.

There was submitted a resolution upon the Maintenance of Municipal Credit, as follows:—

"We the members of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, being fully seized with the importance of preserving the credit of the country so that during and after the war the ability to raise capital necessary for the carrying on of the war and the development of the country shall not be placed in jeopardy;

AND WHEREAS, any self-governing public body, such as Provincial Governments, Municipalities, School Districts, etc., which does not promptly meet its obligations in connection with its outstanding indebtedness, has the effect of not only injuring the credit of that body but other similar bodies and the country generally;

AND WHEREAS, there are at present a number of Municipalities that are many months behind in the payment of their interest and principal on Debentures outstanding in the hands of investors in Great Britain, Canada and the United States which is having a very injurious effect on the credit of the Dominion of Canada at large;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT we, members of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, consider it in the interest of the country that, where such conditions may occur or where there are evidences that such a situation is likely to occur, that, as the Municipalities are created by the Province, the Province immediately take such action as they may find to be effective to provide that the just debts of these self-governing bodies are redeemed and the good name and credit of the country thereby maintained;

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premiers of the various Provinces."

Upon motion by Reeve Bridgman, seconded by Alderman Owen, it was resolved that the resolution as to the Municipal credit be received and filed.

Protest Against Changes in The Railway Act.

SECRETARY LIGHTHALL submitted a draft of resolution re the "Consolidated Railway Act," now before Parliament.

Upon motion by Alderman Owen (Vancouver), seconded by Mayor Costello (Calgary), it was unanimously resolved:

"That the Municipalities of Canada, as represented by the Union of Canadian Municipalities in Convention assembled, at Victoria, B.C., have heard with regret and alarm of the changes made in the Senate to the clauses of the Bill consolidating the Railway Act, which affect municipalities, particularly as regards the necessity of obtaining consent of the municipal authority by by-law, previous to constructing works on streets, highways and public places, and also as regards permitting easements and servitudes to be expropriated by public utility and railroad companies in cities, towns and villages; and whereas the rights and privileges of municipalities are thereby seriously endangered, and any invasion of these rights are a direct assault upon municipalities. This Union records its unalterable opposition to such changes, and energetically demand that they be not made.

The Executive of this Union are instructed to take all measures they may deem advisable to prevent the changes in question; the said provisions having been originally introduced as the result of grave evils, and being the result of years of discussion and useful consideration.

The resolution was carried.

War Measures.

The following resolution was also unanimously adopted:

"Whereas the Union of Canadian Municipalities in Convention assembled in London, Ont., in 1917, expressed their willingness to co-operate with the Government of Canada in every way possible in the carrying out of its various war measures;

"Therefore, be it resolved that this Convention reiterate its willingness to further co-operate in every way to assist

the Government in carrying out its various measures in the prosecution of the war to a successful termination."

Public Works after the War.

MR. YORATH.—At the present time the whole of the Municipalities are being organized with the view to obtaining information as to what public works can be started immediately after the end of the war. This I brought up in Montreal two years ago, and nothing has been done to provide work for the amount of labor which will be thrown on the market. Now, this should have the serious consideration of this convention. It is being dealt with in other countries, and if it is not dealt with in this country it will be a very serious matter.

MAYOR PERRY (Prince George).—I gathered from the remarks by the various Mayors who spoke on the subject yesterday, that is in regard to the very large amount of back taxes. If that condition exists the credit of the cities throughout Canada will be impaired. Should these back taxes be permitted to accumulate year by year the condition continually becomes worse, or should there be tax sales year by year. If these back taxes are continually left, when the war is ended and the problem of finding employment for returned soldiers all cities will not be able to cope with the situation; there will be suffering after the war. The fact that we have large orders for munitions from the British Government means that we are enjoying prosperity, but as soon as peace is declared there will be a change from that. They are all shifting the responsibility from one body to another. They are all asking the co-operation of the Municipalities. It is one of our most important duties, at this Convention, to pass resolutions to assist the Dominion and Provincial Governments as to how to cope with the situation. The question of the returned soldiers I am not going to say anything in regard to that until this afternoon.

With regard to back taxes, it is better to have annual tax sales. It is unfair to have the city carrying property from year to year, and the man who does not pay his taxes to be carried by the city from year to year. It is unfair. In regard to the unemployed I think that we should pass some resolution guiding the Dominion Government in that regard. You know that after every war that has ever been held there has been depression. After the South African war men were walking the streets looking for work. Another thing I think the Government should do in order to avoid a collapse of financial plans in the country would be to nationalize the banks. The banks should be owned by the Dominion Government. I think it is a shame that the banks of this country should be permitted to issue paper money on their capital which is being invested in buildings and stock and bonds, and they can issue paper money to a very large degree and gain a tremendous profit. I say that condition should be avoided, and the Dominion Government should gain that profit whereby they would have more money after the war.

ALDERMAN McBAIN, Vancouver.—To have a successful tax sale we do not want the land, but the money. I think we should adopt some system, such as Victoria has done, a ten-year system. We need money not property at the present time.

COM. YORATH, Sask.—In the Province of Saskatchewan the tax sale procedure was renewed in 1914. The fact is that these Municipalities have held tax sales and made a larger number of tax payers pay their taxes. The arrears of taxes in Saskatchewan are very much smaller than in Alberta and British Columbia. If the holder pays 1-10 arrears of taxes the Municipality would not dispose of the property. The arrears of taxes in Saskatchewan are reduced on account of actual, collections coming into the Municipal Offices.

CITY CLERK DICKINSON, North Cowichan.—The experience which Commissioner Yorath has pointed out is an experience which has worked both ways. It is applied to blocks of land which has fallen to the Municipality through tax sales, whereby the purchaser has to pay to the Municipality in annual instalments the arrears which are due. In the meantime the property is deeded to the Municipality. The moral effect of the annual tax sale is beneficial. One reason why we have held a tax sale is

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).

this: When we have gone to the bank for accommodation, one of the conditions that they have imposed upon us is the holding of an annual tax sale, and we have found that to be the most beneficial in the collection of the arrears of taxes.

PRESIDENT HARDIE.—With \$600,000.00 in arrears, in the City of Lethbridge, the one-third we have found fell to the city. Another one-third we collected in money, and the other one-third cannot be collected until after the war.

MAYOR CATOR, Brandon.—Every year we have a tax sale. Every year we advertise. First we advertise the date. The last date. We get a large amount of money at that time. The difficulty of getting people to pay up their taxes to hang on to their property is the fact of the over assessments. Under the present assessments there are a large number of people feeling that it ceases to be an investment to pay their taxes. Now, the question comes, if you reduce the assessment on the outlying property, then you are reducing your levying power. Some other source of revenue should be granted to the Municipality to help them over the matter. I suggest some moderate form of income tax. The City of Winnipeg at the present time have considered this proposition. I also suggest that the Municipalities be authorized to benefit, to some extent, by the profits derived from the war. It seems to me that that should be applicable.

Reorganization of Union.

MR. YORATH.—As you are well aware there are some large cities in Canada that do not contribute to this Union. In Saskatchewan we had a Convention three weeks ago, and the question of appointing delegates was considered, and it was decided that it was useless to send delegates to this Convention. I believe that the same feeling exists in the Province of Nova Scotia. Now, it is my opinion that a convention of this kind should be the largest held in the Dominion of Canada, and the reason given for the present one being poorly attended—namely the war—is the reason why it should be the largest in the interest of the nation. We have municipal problems that have got to be solved.

After hearing our discussions, I feel that nothing has been done in solving those problems. I heard Mr. Lighthall say that the question of governing the General Executive Committee by having members from the Provincial Union, executives were not practical. I submit that the whole Municipal work throughout Canada is in the hands of the Provincial Governments, and not the Dominion Government, and it would be in the interest of this Union if all the executives of the Provinces were linked up with us. I sincerely hope that some drastic measures will be taken so as to make this organization one of the most effective in the whole of the Dominion.

It was then proposed by Mr. Yorath (Saskatoon), seconded by Mr. Atherton (Point Grey):—

WHEREAS, the municipality is the unit responsible for public health, protection of life and property, education and the expenditure of large sums of money, all of which affect the welfare and proper development of the nation;

AND WHEREAS, it is desirable, particularly having regard to conditions arising out of the war, that municipal government be raised to the highest standard of efficiency;

AND WHEREAS, in order to properly organize and obtain unity of all the municipalities so that these objects can be attained, it is necessary that the Constitution of the Union be reorganized;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the constitution of the Union of Canadian Municipalities be reorganized by the Executive Committee to be formed as is herein-after named so as to provide:

(a) That the Executive Committee consist of members of the Executive Committees of the Provincial Union of Municipalities, two members to be selected from each Province. The officers of the Union being ex-officio members of the Committee;

(b) That at least four and not more than six Executive Committee meetings be held each year. (The expenses incurred by the members in attending such meetings to be paid by the Union);

(c) That having regard to the great national importance of the work which can be done in directing the development of our communities upon proper lines, the funds of the Union be raised by contributions from all municipalities in relation to the population and from the Provincial and Dominion Governments;

(d) That the head offices of the Union be moved to Winnipeg or some other central point, and that the Execu-

tive Committee above named be authorized to make all necessary arrangements;

(e) That at all future conventions, papers to be read and resolutions which may be submitted by Provincial Unions or Municipalities, shall be printed and distributed at least one week before the convention;

(f) That a permanent secretary be appointed at a commencing salary of \$3,000 per year annum and the Executive Committee, above named, be authorized to make such appointment.

MAYOR COSTELLO, Calgary: Mr. President the resolution is one that is very nice, but it does not get down to the practical way of getting the money. To think at the present time of moving the Convention away from Montreal, I think would hardly be right. It is pretty difficult with such a big country as we have got, for we are getting town administration now centralized in the province. In Alberta we have had some splendid conventions of Municipal matters, and I look at this Union as an opportunity where we get together and get acquainted with people carrying on conventions in our whole Dominion. I have always thought that we could get some valuable information from meeting members from the different parts of the Dominion. I think I would have to be opposed to this resolution as it brings down a fine policy, but it does not get down to the practical manner of carrying it on. In Calgary we sometimes have trouble in getting the city council to pay the fees, etc., but the Union is doing a splendid work.

ALDERMAN OWEN, Vancouver: We have our Provincial organizations to take care of Provincial matters. The greatest and the largest question is the Railway Act, and which is a Dominion matter, and which should be handled by the Canadian Union. Provincial organizations can take care of any work that comes before Provincial Governments. Take, for instance, legislation that might be brought in Prairie Provinces. It would not affect British Columbia to a very large extent, and from my knowledge of the workings of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, I would hesitate very much before I would like to see any particular change. I would like to hear more requests why that change should take place.

ALDERMAN HAMILTON: I like the principals, but the detail which you would have to work out, the detail of the motion would prevent the order. First of all each Municipality would be in duty bound to be contributory. The unlying principle is to encourage the work of the organization. You would take away from it the spontaneous feature of the organization as it exists today. legally you are supposed to do it.

MR. E. T. SAMPSON, Montreal: There is another point that we ought to bear in mind, that the Union itself rests entirely upon the good-will of all its Units, and if we are going to reconsider the constitution we ought to do so at a thoroughly representative meeting, otherwise if we attempt to reconstitute, it may mean entire disintegration.

MAYOR HAWKINS, Halifax: I do not think we are in a position to-day to decide definitely on the merits of the resolution.

I am going to suggest with your permission that the matter be referred to the incoming executive, and report at our next convention. I think it is a matter that should receive consideration, and that time should be given to give it that consideration, and with that object I will move the amendment.

MR. MACKIE, Moose Jaw: I have much pleasure in supporting Mayor Hawkins' suggestion.

HON. MR. GARIEPY: There are some people who are of the opinion that the Canadian Union has done big things. I have followed this Union for eight years and I think that it has been a source of great information for those who are in convention. I think that the Union of Canadian Municipalities has done great good. There is no question that there are lots of Municipalities that are not represented here. The powers of the Municipalities are the powers of the Province. (Voice: That is right). Yesterday we had a motion by which we asked to have bonds issued to belong to the different Municipalities. I think that with the present system there are lots of improvements to be done.

ALDERMAN McBAIN, North Vancouver: We want the sympathy of all the Municipalities. We want to keep them in active touch with this institution. There are some things that we can do that will be effective, and there is one suggestion that strikes me from a business point, and that is a permanent secretary, I believe

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).

that the voice of this meeting should be taken as to having a permanent secretary in order that we might have more work done throughout the Dominion.

MAYOR GALE, Vancouver: Not having attended any former conventions of this Union, I am loath to criticize its actions. Listening to the discussion this morning it would appear that a general opinion is necessary as to the Constitution. I was going to suggest that possibly we could obtain the objects for which we are all striving, by having a Committee appointed at this convention. The resolution, of course, contains suggestions which I think it is unfair to ask those to vote upon without giving due consideration. Possibly a delegation from each Provincial organization where such organizations exist together with the President and the Secretary of the Union to draft a new constitution, and that might be given power to act. If the suggestion is met with favor I would move this amendment: That a Committee consisting of the President and Hon. Secretary, together with the general officers of the Provincial Unions be now appointed with power to redraft the constitution of the Union."

Mayor Bouchard (St. Hyacinthe), seconded the amendment.

MR. W. D. LIGHTHALL: Might I be allowed a word just here. I suppose I may be regarded as the founder of the Union, and having been engaged with this work for seventeen or eighteen years it appears to me that the resolution of Mayor Gale is about the fittest possible resolution. It seems to me that the appointment of a Committee of that kind, with, perhaps added to it the general officers of the Union, would do good. An absolute revolution in the Union which might result from the motion of Mr. Yorath, who is accustomed to making startling motions, is a little too sudden. It is one of those things which none of us have had an opportunity to consider. It is one of those things that I do not think this meeting could feel it is fairly constituted to accomplish. At the present moment we are at one end of the Dominion. The distant representatives are very few. If it were in the Province of Nova Scotia you would have a majority of Nova Scotia representatives. They would not, and they ought not to attempt to decide questions for British Columbia. Nor should this majority of British Columbians decide general questions. The difficulties of sending representatives are increased by the war, and so are all our other difficulties of organization.

MR. YORATH: I would like to draw the attention of the convention to the constitution of the present executive. I would like to ask how many of the executive attend the meetings?

MR. LIGHTHALL: The difficulties to-day are so great that you cannot have many.

MR. YORATH: The duties are so great that we must have more conventions; it is necessary in regard to Municipal work.

Still I rather favor the amendment by Mr. Gale. I feel that it is rather sudden to bring a resolution such as mine before the convention.

MAYOR FISHER, Ottawa: I have a great deal of sympathy with the objects of Mr. Yorath's motion. I have attended a good many conventions. I never left one without feeling that the results achieved were unsatisfactory. I have the same feeling in regard to this convention. I suppose that must be unavoidable.

MAYOR HAWKINS: When making my amendment I had the impression that this long list was the executive.

MAYOR GALE: If it is going to make them so large as to be impossible to bring them together I would object. The whole Committee should consist of the President, Honorary Secretary and Vice-President. Those of us who are here to-day might not be competent to choose the men who would represent British Columbia. A special committee consisting of a representative from each Province together with a President.

MR. YORATH: I withdraw my motion.

Mayor Gale's amendment was carried.

Election of officers was now taken up.

MAYOR HOLDEN, Vegreville: I move Mayor Costello, of Calgary, be President for 1919. Mayor Costello is serving his fourth year. I therefore take much pleasure in nominating Mayor Costello.

MR. SAUNDERS: I take great pleasure in seconding Mayor Holden's motion. I think the West is entitled to consideration at your hands.

MAYOR BOUCHARD: I move that Mr. Robert Ryan, of Three Rivers, be nominated.

MR. HARDIE: Any further nominations.

WALTER MORTON, Nanaimo: It has been moved that the nominations be closed.

Upon voting Mayor Costello was declared elected as President.

The officers of the Union were elected as follows:

Officers and Executive for the year 1918-1919***PRESIDENT.**

M. C. COSTELLO, M.D.,
Mayor of Calgary, Alta.

1st Vice-President:

T. D. BOUCHARD, M.L.A.,
Mayor of St. Hyacinthe, Que.

2nd, Vice-President:

A. E. TODD,
Mayor of Victoria, B.C.

Hon. Secretary-Treasurer:

W. D. LIGHTHALL, K.C.,
Ex-Mayor of Westmount, Que.

3rd, Vice-President:

HAROLD FISHER,
Mayor of Ottawa, Ont.

ONTARIO.**Vice-Presidents:**

1st, T. L. Church, Mayor of Toronto.
2nd, G. H. Duncan, Mayor of Peterborough.
3rd, J. M. Hughes, Mayor of Kingston.
4th, H. Murphy, Mayor of Fort William.
5th, C. R. Tusson, Mayor of Windsor.

QUEBEC.**Vice-Presidents:**

1st, H. E. Lavigne, Mayor of Quebec.
2nd, M. Martin, M.P., Mayor of Montreal.
3rd, Robert Ryan, Alderman, Three Rivers.
4th, C. D. White, K.C., Mayor of Sherbrooke.
5th, A. Thurber, Mayor of Longueuil.

MANITOBA.**Vice-Presidents:**

1st, H. Cater, Mayor of Brandon.
2nd, J. F. Feilde, Reeve of Fort Garry.
3rd, F. H. Davidson, Mayor of Winnipeg.
4th, R. Forke, Reeve of Pipestone.
5th, C. E. Ivens, Reeve of Wallace.

BRITISH COLUMBIA**Vice-Presidents:**

1st, A. H. Gale, Mayor of Vancouver.
2nd, S. A. Shatford, Mayor of Vernon.
3rd, H. G. Perry, Mayor of Prince George.
4th, E. H. Bridgeman, Reeve, North Vancouver.

ALBERTA.**Vice-Presidents:**

1st, J. B. Holden, Mayor of Vegreville.
2nd, C. H. Grant, Alderman, Edmonton.
3rd, G. E. Hotson, Alderman, Medicine Hat.
4th, J. D. Saunders, Sec.-Treas., Camrose.

SASKATCHEWAN.**Vice-Presidents:**

1st, J. E. Peaker, Mayor of Yorkton.
2nd, C. J. Yorath, Commissioner, Saskatoon.
3rd, G. D. Mackie, Commissioner, Moose Jaw.
4th, C. M. Hamilton, Councillor, McTaggart.

NOVA SCOTIA.**Vice-Presidents:**

1st, A. C. Hawkins, M.D., Mayor of Halifax.
2nd, W. Fitzgerald, Mayor of Sydney.
3rd, A. Roberts, K.C. Solicitor, Bridgewater.
4th, A. W. Hendry, Mayor of Liverpool.

NEW-BRUNSWICK.**Vice-Presidents:**

1st, R. T. Hayes, Mayor of St. John.
2nd, H. L. McLellen, Alderman, of St. John.
3rd, J. E. Masters, Mayor of Moncton.
4th, R. B. Hanson, Mayor of Fredericton.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.**Vice-Presidents:**

1st, G. D. Wright, Mayor of Charlottetown.
2nd, J. A. Morrison, Mayor of Summerside.
3rd, S. C. Knight, Mayor of Georgetown.
4th, F. W. Jardine, M.D., Mayor of Kensington.

G. S. WILSON, Assistant-Secretary,
Bureau of Information, Coristine Bldg.,
Montreal.

Official Organ
"THE CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL"
Coristine Bldg., Montreal.

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).

A Municipal Fish Market.

MAYOR GALE: I have no desire to take up the time of the Convention. As citizens of this Province we are very proud. We started off with our little fish market a couple months ago, and never dreaming of the success that would be obtained from it, we are now serving from 1,700 to 1,800 lbs. per day in a very small temporary building. We are arranging for a building which will be one of the finest on the continent.

MR. LIGHTHALL: The matter of fish consumption is a matter of very great importance. A good deal has already been done in an introductory way. The Dominion Government are running special trains of fish along the Intercolonial Railway further West than Toronto, and the markets of Toronto, London, Montreal, etc., are being supplied with supplies of fish. I think this trade ought to be a very important link between the East and the Pacific Coast.

ALDERMAN COLLYER, Quebec: Before the announcement of the resolution I would like to draw to the attention of British Columbia the fact that in the East the price of fish is prohibitive; the price of salmon is all the way from 30 to 40 cents per pound so that you can see from the prices paid there that the people of British Columbia would find a very profitable market in the East if they could ship their fish to the eastern markets. I do not know where our supply of fish comes from. If the people of British Columbia can arrange with the transportation companies to have their fish transported to the East they will find the markets profitable to themselves, and find a business that will bring great prosperity to them.

MAYOR BOUCHARD: I think one of the reasons of the high price of fish in the East is the fact that the profit of the retailer and of the wholesaler of the West was looked into, but nothing was done to the East. I think the Government should give us fair treatment in the price of fish as well as the West. I do not think it is fair to the Eastern population. I think that people should be protected in the East as they are in the West.

MR. COLLYER: If Mayor Bouchard, of St. Hyacinthe, would move a resolution to take some action in the regulation of fish prices in the East I would gladly second that resolution. Now, it is in the interest of the people of British Columbia that such a resolution should be passed at this Convention.

MR. LIGHTHALL: I think that we should agree to this resolution.

MR. COLLYER: I think it would be better for the convention to take some action in the matter.

MAYOR GALE: The vast number of citizens had to be considered, at the same time we wanted to help out

the middle man, and establish a price for the man who produced the goods and the result is that the citizens of Vancouver are receiving food stuffs at as low a price as possible.

CONTROL OF FOOD PRICES.

Alder McBain moved, seconded by Mayor Cater (Brandon), and it was

RESOLVED that in view of the constantly varying and constantly increasing prices of food stuffs, constituting the necessities of life, causing the unsettled condition of labor throughout the Dominion, resulting as it does in employers of labor and employees being unable to arrive at any permanent schedule of wages, and which condition results directly in friction between capital and labor and consequent strikes and generally unsettled conditions in the labor market in both large and small industries throughout the country, it is in the opinion of this Convention, highly desirable that maximum prices, at which all food stuffs may be sold to consumer, be permanently fixed by Government Order-in-Council the Secretary of State, the Minister of Labour, and the Food Controller at Ottawa.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Dominion Government be memorialized to pass such an Order-in-Council forthwith, and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable, the Premier of Canada, the Honorable the Secretary of State, the Minister of Labor and the Food Controller at Ottawa.

The following resolutions were referred to the executive of the Union.

Moved by Mayor Cater (Brandon), Man.; seconded by Commissioner Mackie, of Moose Jaw:

WHEREAS the methods adopted by the various Provinces and Commissioners for sustaining the Patriotic Fund are not always the most satisfactory, and involve many appeals to the public.

WHEREAS these are pre-eminently war activities. Therefore, be it resolved that the raising of funds for the above purposes should be provided by the Dominion Government in lieu of the present method of public subscription and municipal loans.

Moved by Commissioner C. J. Yorath:

WHEREAS there is very little doubt that upon the cessation of hostilities and when the Canadian army returns to Canada there will be a large amount of unemployment in the towns and cities unless public works are organized now, to be commenced after the war.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dominion Government be urged to make or survey through the Provincial Government of and organize all public works which can advantageously be carried out after the termination of war and that it be requested to create a consolidated loan at a reasonable rate of interest to finance the cost of these works.

National and Municipal Housing

Joint Conference of the Civic Improvement League and
Union of Canadian Municipalities.

On July 10th, the proceedings were begun, with Alderman Owens, of Vancouver, and President Hardie, as joint chairmen.

MR. THOMAS ADAMS, Ottawa: The subject which I have to present to you this afternoon is that of National and Municipal housing, a question which, in ordinary times would be one full of transversal reason, but which in a time of war has to be considered entirely new. The working class housing conditions in Canada before the war were as they are in all civilized countries not at all satisfactory. We still allow housing conditions to be dealt with the same carelessness, and we do not attempt

to stimulate the application of brains and skill to the improvement of housing. At its root the housing question is a land question. An investigation that was recently made in this Province showed that to purchase a 50 foot lot, put in the pavement sidewalks and build the sewer would cost \$2,083, before the house was built. For the moment just consider what that means. It means that in that neighborhood a man has got to spend as much on the land and improvement as he can afford to spend on the whole home. If you take a man that is earning \$25 per week, he cannot afford to pay more than \$20 per month. Now, all our workmen are not earning \$25 per week. I mention that because it is important to see the connection between

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).

the development of land and the building of a home. The development of the sewer, the water-main, the land and the site. When we talk of objecting to Municipal development, we forget that the principle of Municipal expenditure is already recognized and carried out throughout the whole of the Dominion. If a Municipal Corporation were to-morrow to enter into the work of building houses it would not be cutting private enterprise out, because private enterprise could still build houses. I mention that as a preliminary to what I am going to say. We have to recognize that private enterprise is practically killed in regard to building houses. You will not direct capital when the cost of material, the cost of labor, the cost of securing labor and the high cost of development it as great as at present. No private builder is going to start and build houses for the working classes. He may be able to build them for the well-to-do, but not for the purpose of meeting the demand. We may get an individual putting up a temporary building for himself; but remember we have appealed to these men and extracted every cent for Victory Bonds. We have withdrawn the

capital which they had for their own use for war measures. We are, therefore, face to face with the same conditions as Great Britain and the United States have to face, and we ought to try and face them. In Britain it was found after two or three months' careful investigation that the position in regard to the working man engaged in munition industries was this, it did not pay to overwork a man; it did not pay to have him cut off from every social enterprise. The only way has been that they have recognized that the increase of output could be secured by making the worker contented with general conditions. I have seen towns when I was in Great Britain last fall; they have built houses; they started building shacks and they abandoned it. A manufacturer can get workers no matter what accommodation he has got, but it is the type of worker that he gets. The man who has skill and brain to do work must have a proper home to live in. It becomes a business factor in the type of industries of all kinds. Now, we have in these Western Provinces to blame ourselves in a great measure. The United States have appropriated one hundred and ten million dollars for building houses for men engaged in ship-building and munitions.

"Municipal Responsibility in Regard to Economic Development of the Land"

An address was then given by Mr. J. N. Bayne, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs for the Province of Saskatchewan, on the above subject as follows:—

World conditions have brought this subject boldly into the limelight. As the fifth year of the greatest war of either hemisphere approaches, we are confronted squarely with the necessity of applying first principles. The warring nations are obliged to take stock of what can be actually produced from the land. That which is not actually necessary is being relegated more and more to the background. We are now required to make the most of our natural resources and to see that these are not alienated from those who will produce the most and the best for the public weal. Starvation faces millions of people to-day. To give them that nourishment which they need for the preservation of their lives, land, ordinary, commonplace land, must be cultivated and developed. It makes us think that we are back almost to the stage of primitive man when the cravings of hunger made him cast about for some means to assuage them. But eons of time have passed since man was primitive, since each individual struggled for himself. We have now developed so far that the human race knows the benefit of organization and co-operation. We have learned that the people of any community or settlement can bring about better results when united. A municipality is simply a community or a unit of organization established for the mutual benefit of its people and for its general progress and development. It is expected to be the acme of united effort and self-government. The people, with their aims and action co-ordinated, should be in a better position to carry on economic development of the land under conditions where each individual is working by himself although all might have the same object in view.

With a fearful wastage of men and material which has racked a great portion of the world for nearly four years, it is surely a time for organizations, municipal or otherwise, to bend their best united struggles to overcome in some way, and to as large an extent as possible, the havoc which has been wrought. Municipal authorities, be they urban or rural, have indeed a responsibility in the economical use of the nation's birthright — the land. There are various ways in which the municipality's duties in this regard may be carried out. We will endeavor to speak of some of them.

I would mention first what may appear to be a commonplace method. I refer to the construction of streets, roads or highways which, with the least possible wear and tear on the producer's equipment, will bring what he grows from the land to the people who need it for their sustenance. It is indeed the duty of a municipal council to see that the amounts contributed by its various supporters, which are often called "taxes," are carefully expended in the creation of proper streets or roads. The man with a thousand acres, growing good cereals in a region from which it is impossible to transport such grains, would

be of little benefit to the human race. With proper facilities for conveying the grain from his thousand acre farm, he and his products prove benefactors to mankind.

Again, the municipality may, by a proper system of graded taxation, so encourage cultivation of the soil that the land may be developed in a manner profitable to producer and consumer. Possibly a bonus for cultivation may be given, or, as is sometimes done, a penalty for failure to cultivate land by way of additional taxation may be imposed. The results are almost the same, but the bonus instead of the penalty is a little more easily managed and perhaps gives more encouragement to the owners of lands to make the most of them while in their care and keeping. In Saskatchewan, the province from which I come, there existed from 1914 to 1917, inclusive, a special speculator's rate known as the surtax, levied on wild or uncultivated farm lands. This was collected by the rural municipalities of the province and by them spent for general improvements within their boundaries. No regular farmer or settler had any surtax whatever to pay in respect of his farm. Ten dollars per quarter section, or six and one-quarter cents per acre, was the amount of the supertax. It can be readily understood that it was attacked constantly by those who wished to have their speculative holdings advance in price through the efforts and settlement of men who actually farmed or produced wealth from the soil. There was an average of \$680,658.00 surtax imposed during these four years in the rural municipalities of the province which greatly assisted them in carrying on their duties. In the fall of 1917 legislation was passed whereby the "wild lands tax" took the place of the "surtax." It is now levied on a basis of one per cent of the assessed value of the uncultivated land. The municipalities enjoyed this special rate for four years, but after having this assistance in the earlier years of their existence, it was withdrawn and is now payable to the general revenues of the province. It will be readily seen that the wild lands tax will be in excess of the surtax. As already explained, the latter was on a flat rate per acre and amounted to ten dollars per quarter section. The wild lands tax on a quarter section valued at ten dollars per acre will now be sixteen dollars, which fact should further encourage the cultivation of the land. The other prairie provinces have now similar legislation in this regard. In Saskatchewan's three hundred rural municipalities the wild lands tax is collected by them and transferred to the provincial government. In the unorganized territory on the frontiers of the province this tax is assessed and collected direct by the Department of Municipal Affairs. Surely the surtax, or the wild lands tax, is one way of disposing of municipal responsibility in regard to the development of the land.

While dealing with the rural portions of our province, it might likewise be suggested that development would be further encouraged by a more reasonable lay-out or sub-division of our townships, possibly under municipal

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).

control, if at any time the federal or provincial authorities should be relieved of the duties of surveying townships and the work transferred to municipalities. This matter was dealt within an able treatise by Mr. W. A. Begg, Director of Townsites for the Province of Saskatchewan, and is published in the booklet, "Conservation of Life." It appeared, I believe, about a year ago. It shows the advisability of taking advantage of a portion of a waterfront for various farmers instead of running the said lines through lakes which often results in giving the owner of one quarter section several miles of waterfront to the exclusion of his neighbors. This is a topic which will demand more attention when the scheme for the settlement of soldiers on farms is more fully investigated and practiced.

Three things are necessary for economic production from the land — land, labor and capital. Land, however fertile, untouched by the hand of man, produces little that can be used to sustain life. Labor, however willing, can do little to secure production without the help of implements which require capital to secure. Capital, used only in the purchase of land and not in its development, will make no contribution to the needs of mankind so far as production is concerned. But fertile land, cultivated by intelligent labor, assisted by modern and up-to-date machinery, may do much, nay, it may do everything to meet the needs of the world's starving millions.

It would seem a self-evident fact that the man in the best position, generally speaking, to produce from the land is the man already on it. And it is he with whom the municipality comes in closest touch. His solution of the problem of economic development of the land will depend largely on the attitude of the municipal organization of which he is a part. It may do much to encourage him to the greatest possible effort or it may stifle all the ambition he has. Western municipalities have realized the importance of encouraging and assisting those who are earnestly striving to solve the problem of greater production from the land in the face of the world's dire need. The supplying of seed grain to those unable to secure it for themselves is one way in which the rural municipality has met its responsibility in regard to the economic development of the land. It would be interesting to know just how much of the grain produced in the West this year was made possible by the help given by rural municipal organizations in the supplying of seed and feed.

Another means of encouraging development of the land by municipalities in general is practical and systematic town planning and rural development. There are yet many in Canada who do not give this important subject the attention which it demands. Public reason and sentiment, however, are getting behind it more and more every day. I do not need to explain to the delegates that this is accounted for largely through the presence and work in Canada of Mr. Thomas Adams, Town Planning Expert, whose capacity and success are well known to Canada's nine provinces. Had all our provinces enacted urban and rural planning legislation, what sub-division nonsense and complications might have been avoided! In the East and in the West we have large cities and towns, also some villages, surrounded by large areas which should be under cultivation but are not because they have been sub-divided into blocks and lots and these small parcels are likely owned by unfortunate purchasers who do not live near them. Saskatchewan has gone a long way towards overcoming this condition.

In 1914 it passed an "Act Respecting Sub-Divisions." One section of it reads as follows:

"3. The legal or equitable owner of any portion of a sub-divided area within the limits of a city, town, village or rural municipality, whether the plan of sub-division is registered or unregistered, may apply to the local government board for permission to enter upon and occupy any vacant land in such area for the purpose of cultivating the same in common with his own property, and the board after notice to the owner of such vacant land, in such form as it may by regulation prescribe, may grant to the applicant the permission sought upon such terms and conditions as may seem just."

Besides this clause the provincial legislature has made as easy as possible, through municipal institutions and otherwise, the restoration to acreage of sub-divisions. This has proved a real agency in the economic development of land. Under proper town planning supervision,

land within a municipality suited to farming only, would be devoted to that purpose and only a proper area for the convenient housing of the populace in the present and reasonably near future would be allowed.

Land should be developed by sane and logical methods and even at the risk of being challenged at this time when "greater production" is in the air, let it be said that the process should not always be for production purposes. Land should be developed by municipalities for making beautiful and homelike the dwellings within their boundaries. At the thirteenth annual convention of the Union of Saskatchewan Municipalities, held last month in Regina, the Lieutenant-Governor brought home to the delegates the number of people who were constantly leaving the prairies, where a competency had been secured, to seek and make homes in this the Pacific province. Surely one vital duty of a municipality is to so make use of the lands under its control or supervision that its homes may be real homes and that contentment and permanency may be characteristic of them. The beautiful municipality should be an ideal as well as the useful or productive municipality; in fact they go hand in hand and one is never accomplished without the other. The "city beautiful" is naturally the "city healthful" and the latter is always the "city progressive." Just before leaving for this convention I received a very interesting letter on this topic from Mr. F. B. Moffet, Mayor of the City of Weyburn, Saskatchewan, portions of which I will quote:

"The citizens of the urban centres of the Canadian prairie provinces are recognizing, as time goes on, that the beautification of their cities and towns is not only something that gratifies their esthetic taste but also is of material benefit as well.

"I am convinced that town forests would prove to be one of these methods of beautifying the communities in so far as trees are concerned. The reasons I give were largely obtained from information published by places already having them. The forest differs from the park inasmuch as it is larger and does not require the upkeep that a park does. The principal expense is in the price of the land, the preparation and planting. The idea of a town forest is not new. In European countries they are said to be older than even their governments. To stimulate interest, the American Forestry Association has inaugurated a town forest contest and offered to plant fifty acres of town property with one thousand white pines to the acre. There are one hundred points to be considered in securing the prize, consisting of area, soil protection, possibilities for recreation and esthetic development, general improvement, and plans for future development.

"The means provided for acquiring town forests in Massachusetts are arranged for by the Town Forest Act, which gives the municipality the right to sell bonds for the promotion of town forests and to extend the payment over thirty years. Practically every country in Europe has tested out the town forest and found it a profitable investment."

Municipalities can aid in no uncertain manner in profitable development of land by a generous and practical interest in educational institutions. A council should so arrange that schools will be encouraged and that in them the uses and abuses of land can be inculcated in the youthful mind. It can go further by helping in school gardening and in seeing that sane methods of using and cultivating any area of land, either large or small, secure due attention in the curriculum of studies.

Vacant lot gardening has received an impetus during the last few years through progressive councils and societies, which fact goes to show that our subject has been in their minds. These unused spaces are often put to economical as well as economic purposes. Besides making them more attractive looking, their cultivation means a conservation of resources and a decreased bill of expenses for the family concerned, which in these days of skyward tending prices for all necessities means much to the average householder.

ALD. OWEN: We have arranged for the appointment of a town planning director, who will be an official with the town with which I am connected. In this connection it is encouraging to know that Mr. Adams has been good enough to offer his services, and his wealth of experience in drafting these by-laws.

MR. ADAM: At present there is in force in Canada seven Town Planning Acts. The most recent Act is in Prince Edward Island, with the appointment of a com-

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).

mission to deal with it. We are now preparing a plan for the town of Borden. The Saskatchewan Act was passed and it came in force this month. It is perhaps the most advanced that we have. The only Provinces which have no legislation are Quebec and British Columbia, the reason for that is not because those Provinces are lacking in the desire to have legislation. In regard to British Columbia it has been rather difficult because of recent developments in Halifax for me to come here.

The following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

Resolution No. 1—Housing.

WHEREAS a serious situation exists in industrial centres in Canada because of the lack of adequate housing accommodation at reasonable rates, creating conditions that menace the industrial, social and political welfare of the whole country;

AND WHEREAS it has been demonstrated that private initiative, operating through the law of supply and demand, has not met adequately the housing requirements of progressive communities;

AND WHEREAS in all the principal countries of Europe, in Australia, and in Ontario, Governmental responsibilities for the improvement of housing has been recognized by legislation providing for the advance of the public credit in various forms and in varying degrees in furtherance of improved housing undertakings, and in the United States the National Government has recently appropriated \$100,000,000 to provide for housing for shipyard workers and those engaged on war contracts;

AND WHEREAS Great Britain, recognizing that adequate housing is essential to industrial efficiency, has spent since the war began large sums in providing the most approved housing for war workers, and as a part of its reconstruction programme after the war, has planned for the erection of at least half a million houses;

AND WHEREAS we believe that adequate housing facilities are essential to industrial progress and national well-being;

THEREFORE this Conference submits that it is urgently incumbent upon our Municipal, Provincial and Dominion Governments to seriously consider the whole question of housing reform, in order that plans may be laid for the provision of adequate housing facilities, looking towards the increase of home ownership, and that measures be taken for the early realization of these plans. Furthermore, we beg respectfully to submit to the Dominion Government that immediately progress can be made by enlarging and emphasizing the Housing and Town Planning work of the Dominion, and to the Provincial Government that arrangements should be made to consider ways and means with regard to the whole question of housing betterment.

Resolution No. 2—Town Planning, Etc.

That this Conference approves the general principle of each Province having adequate powers to prepare comprehensive town planning schemes to regulate housing developments and to secure improved sanitary conditions, convenience for traffic and the economic use of land for all purposes and submits to the Government of British Columbia the desirability of passing the necessary legislation for the purposes similar to the Acts in force in the other provinces, as adapted to local conditions.

Resolution No. 3—Formation of Local League.

That this meeting of members of the Civic Improvement League of Canada urge the citizens of the cities, towns and rural districts in British Columbia to organize local civic improvement Leagues throughout the province for the purpose of stimulating greater public interest in municipal affairs and to promote future conferences to discuss how best to improve civic and social conditions.

Resolution No. 4—Investigation of Causes of High Mortality.

That in view of the urgent need for the conservation of all the resources of Canada and particularly of the lives of its citizens;

That inasmuch as this must be done not only through their action as individual citizens, but also through their several governments, federal, provincial and municipal, it is hereby

RESOLVED THAT this Conference urge that such federal and provincial assistance be given to municipalities in the investigation of these local conditions which may be the cause of high mortality in any community, in order to determine what measures are necessary for the removal

of said conditions and the best means available to this end.
Resolution No. 5—Approval of Work of Commission of

Conservation.

WHEREAS the Commission of Conservation of Canada has been largely responsible for the development of favorable public opinion on the perpetuation of forests, their safeguarding from fire and pests; of valuable information accumulated being on our enormous fire waste; the improvement of housing conditions in congested localities; the establishment of proper methods of general fire prevention; the economic development of municipalities and betterment of living and social conditions; the utility of systems of good roads! the conservation of the fisheries and the prevention of the alienation of water powers, land, minerals and other natural resources;

AND WHEREAS the public opinion so created has become crystallized in the form of municipal regulations, Dominion and Provincial legislation having in view the eradication of existing evils;

AND WHEREAS there is still great necessity for the stimulation of public interest in best methods of conservation of resources;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Conference record its continued interest in the work carried on by the Commission of Conservation and its approval of the efforts of the Commission to promote the development of the national resources on a basis which ensures continuous supplies and eliminates extravagance and waste.

THE PROBLEM OF RETURNED SOLDIERS.

MR. ADAMS: Some more consideration should be given to the problem of the returned soldier which will occur when demobilization will take place. These men will want homes and work.

MR. OWEN: This is a question on which we will be only too pleased to have a discussion. It is a question which we have to face in the very near future, and I believe that we should prepare for the return of our boys.

MAYOR PERRY, Prince George: I am going to move Mr. Chairman with your kind permission, the following resolution.

WHEREAS it is necessary for this Dominion to increase its productivity in order to sustain its economic position in the world;

AND WHEREAS the best method is by quickly developing our great natural resources,

AND WHEREAS a great problem will exist in placing the returned soldiers back into civil life;

AND WHEREAS the policy of lending money to assist returned soldiers to develop the agricultural resources only partially solves the problem.

THIS CONVENTION RESOLVES that the Government take large blocks of agricultural land and engage large numbers of returned soldiers under expert management on these blocks under similar army conditions with the object of getting sufficient land under cultivation to sustain that number. That when sufficient land is developed to sustain that number the Government apportion the said land amongst the soldiers and disengage them. The cost of the development to be made a first mortgage on each allotment, and Government assistance and advice be continued so these men may become independent and prosperous farmers.

MR. LEWIS: There are two resolutions that appear to be before the house. The first one is the resolution introduced by yourself as to whether the Municipalities will take the initiative so as to provide some scheme in connection with the settlement of the returned soldiers. Now being that this is a Municipal convention I think it is very necessary that we should enter into the economic aspect of this thing because it is very well for us to pass resolutions asking the government to do this and that and the other. We know what occurred in connection with the bond holders lending money to the various Municipalities. I think some of the suggestions put forward to-day would be the solution of the issue of the subject in connection with returned soldiers, because if it is considered necessary during the war to provide good, sanitary homes for the purchasers, how much more would it be after the war to provide homes for the men who will be here with us. I think the two are synonymous. The question is how are we to get the money. The bond holders have sent out messages to

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued.)

the government not to spend money too fast, so I think this is one of the problems they should take up as to the best means the country should adopt in connection with this development work. The next question touches the returned soldiers, and the problem is where is the government going to get the land. The Government has no land available; it has reasonable means of transportation. Would this conference make up their mind on this issue. Now, these are the conditions which the Government are up against at present and which the government will have to decide before any movement is established.

MAYOR FISHER: These two schemes the one of them relates to the class of men who do not wish to go on the land at all, but who need employment, and will get that employment through the Municipalities. This scheme as introduced by this gentleman relates to land settlement. Only a small proportion of the soldiers returned to us will go on the land at all. I have no particular reference except this fact that the men who return have homes to which they desire to go. It would take a twenty horse team to keep those men in camp after they reach the shores of Canada.

There is no land in any great area on which people are not settled to some extent at least. I do not know anything of the land myself; it is not in my line.

MAYOR PERRY: I am dealing with the case of the men who are anxious to become farmers, and there are thousands of them. I know there are 3,000,000 acres of land in the Peace River country.

MR. ADAMS: I would like to say it is better to be general in resolutions unless you are able to forward a scheme, which is quite suitable. The question is one which affects a great variety of men who are likely to return to a great variety of occupations. Personally, I do not think that a large proportion of the men will go on the farms. I do not think that it is desirable that a large portion of the men should go on the land. One of the great difficulties in Canada is to get access. There are about 30,000,000 acres of land good, bad and indifferent, partially occupied but they are partly or improperly used. It should be sub-divided in the way in which it could be used. The soldier will probably want to go on small farms where he can use his small capital. It will be necessary to have manufacturing work provided for a large proportion of these men. I know of cases in Port Arthur. I know where there is land within a mile or two of the city, where there are small ranches like which you have around Victoria; it is a big problem. Can we develop any scheme which would be satisfactory? I think it was pointed out that out of 300 or 400 which were examined, that only 6 per cent. of them desired to go back to the land. Might I ask this question, would the Municipalities not be in the best position to understand the local conditions affecting each man. Every man is known to the Mayor and his officials in a small town. They know what that man is fit for. They know his character, and they are in a far better position to know all about him. They will either have to assist with it or it will have to be done in a very unsatisfactory way.

MR. LIGHTHALL: I have had a great deal to do with the returned soldiers, and I find they are organizing throughout the Dominion to settle their own problems, and in fact about all we can venture to do is to back them up and call on the government to back them up in their own plans and their own ideas. For instance in Quebec the G. W. V. A. has a committee to look after this problem. One of the things they will not consider is to be kept in military supervision any longer than is absolutely necessary.

MR. CARNE: It is quite true that I was the first officer from British Columbia. Well I found two per cent. of the men who wished to go on the land. I also found that the men did not wish to continue in military service. We had an idea of taking over an island and clearing it on the same principle as Mr. Perry explained, but it did not come to anything. I believe we could have got men to come and work for wages, at usual wages, and the men would have begun there, and it is quite true that they would have welcomed these propositions. I firmly

believe that the individual system is not half as good as the community system. The island I refer to was near Agassiz, and if we had a settlement of that kind it would be better than giving help to one man here and one man there all over the place, and would mean that you would have to sit down and consider this question. At the beginning of the war a certain Committee sat for many nights, sat for a week at a time, and sent their deliberations to Ottawa, but nothing came of it, and I do not think it had much effect at all.

MR. DICKENSON: I have listened with a deal of pleasure to this discussion. I am very strong with the intercourse I have had with returned men in connection with Municipal work. The Council to which I am clerk for give a lot of thought to this matter for the reason that we have a large number of returned men, and expect to have a great deal more. It seems exceedingly difficult to suggest to the Government, Provincial or Federal, that we would like you to do this and to do that or the other. If they let the returned men feel that they have their support they themselves are in touch with the Government Departments, and if they feel that they have the support of the Government it will go a very long way. One man wants to do one thing, some another. Some are coming back very quietly taking up their work the same as they laid it down. I do not think that they are going to the government with anything rash, they are giving a great deal of thought to these matters themselves with the support that we will be able to give them.

MRS. PERRY, Vancouver: I think these men are quite brainy enough to think of what they want themselves, and we say to them that we women will stand behind them, and we recognize that these men are quite capable of thinking out for themselves.

A delightful luncheon was tendered to the delegates on Wednesday, July 11th, by the Rotary Club of Victoria, at which the Hon. Dr. Maclean, of Victoria; Mayors Todd, Hawkins, Lighthall, D. Bryce, Professor Plaskett, and the President of the Rotary Club spoke.

The luncheon was followed by a drive to the new Observatory, where the honors were paid by Professor Plaskett, and the immense and wonderful telescope — the second largest reflecting lens telescope in the world — was put through its lifelike evolutions and the guests also admired the wonderful views of the Pacific, the city, the great forests, lakes and surrounding towns. The authorities of Saanich and Oak Bay then tendered the most charming hospitality within their own municipalities and the Convention came to a close with lasting impressions of the beauty of British Columbia and the genial qualities of the British Columbians.



EX-MAYOR FRED COOK,
Parliamentary Agent, U. C. M., at Ottawa.

MUNICIPAL PREPAREDNESS.

(Continued from Page 364.)

alternative but to follow a similar course. It was the full and complete acknowledgment of this simple truth that led to the development of the remarkable program of industrial housing."

"It may be difficult for us to accept the idea of almost absolute state control over affairs which we have hitherto deemed to be essentially private," he adds, "but I repeat with emphasis my opinion, based upon a knowledge of our capacities and traditions and on a very rapid survey of results accomplished here, that we shall fall short of doing our share, that we shall fail in our purpose, if we in any way hamper or deflect the state from assuming absolute control, and of directing the sum total of our energies toward the immediate purpose of bringing this war to a close. This is the lesson I have learned in my few days in England, not alone from my interviews, but from all whom I meet, and above all from the temper of a people who have learned through three years of bitter experience the meaning of the 'war'!"

And once the American people learn the lesson and appreciate the value of the expedition, expediency and efficiency of such state control, there is little likelihood of a reaction towards a "laissez faire" policy after the war. On the contrary, there is every reason to believe that with the coming of the larger participation and influence of labor in our legislative halls there will be a development of the idea of state control in which our war time experience will play an important part.

Federal Control of Social Conditions.

Federal control is being exercised in another highly important direction. "There is not a single red light district existing to-day within an effective radius of any army cantonment or naval station where any considerable number of soldiers or sailors are in training," Raymond B. Fosdick, chairman of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, declared in summing up vice conditions around military camps.*

*Twenty-five segregated districts within the five-mile zones established around military camps have been closed under the Congressional enactment which provides for absolute repression in these areas. Beyond the dead line in cities contiguous to military camps many more have been abolished through the co-operation of federal, state and civic authorities. "Scatteration," which has invariably followed the abolition of segregation in these cities, also has been combatted effectively.

Varying degrees of public ignorance and prejudice have hampered the effective enforcement of laws. There have been people who have opposed any change when a clean-up was ordered, failing to realize the destructive influence of the segregated zones upon the military efficiency of the soldiers and sailors. Others have argued that the abolition of segregation would scatter evil throughout the community.

These conditions, coupled with the apathy of a few public officials have forced the government to take drastic steps to bring certain cities to a realization of their duty in keeping their soldier and sailor visitors fit for fighting. At Seattle, Wash., recently pressure brought about by indignant citizens forced the officials to make a sweeping clean-up of all questionable places after soldiers from Camp Lewis at American Lake, Wash., had been forbidden to enter the city because of the vicious conditions existing there."

To accomplish these ends the federal authorities acting through army and navy officers have not hesitated to "take over," "control," "commandeer," call it what one pleases, the police forces of the communities falling on their own initiative to protect our boys from a danger almost as great as the enemy's guns. In a statement following such action, Lieutenant-Colonel Hatch, although refusing to say that the government had "commandeered" the police force in the full meaning of the word, said, however, that the government was determined to clean up the city if the police could not do so, and that sixteen enlisted men would continue to operate with six secret service men in checking up vice conditions. "Captain Mills," he said, "has military training and I believe he will clean up the city. Mayor Smith gave me his word of honor that Captain Mills will be unfettered and that he can promote and demote men as he sees fit. I told Captain Mills he is acting for the government, and that I will back him up in everything he does so long as he is not fettered. Captain Mills told me that forty-eight hours after he takes con-

trol he would show that he is in absolute charge of the police department. We intend to see, however, that the young men in the service are protected and that evil resorts are wiped out. I believe that conditions at present are good, and all we want to see is that they remain good. Our investigators will keep in constant touch with the situation, and our reports will go to Washington."

The American people are coming to see that all the evils which are alleged to exist in the camps are more prevalent in civil life. As the Social Service Commission of the Diocese of Pennsylvania points out, "It is here that habits are learned and acquired. We must therefore get at the root of the matter and purge our home conditions. Prostitution, gambling, drinking are not to be blamed only on our soldiers and sailors as such. They are to be blamed on the citizens and city government which allow them to exist, and we must act accordingly."

Therefore it is not surprising to find that the influence of the Fosdick Commission is spreading. Its chairman reports that "the recently appointed state military welfare commissions in Virginia, California, Arkansas and Minnesota are to be commended for their effective work in this matter which so vitally affects the man power of our army and navy. The appointments of these commissions are great forward steps towards the maintenance of efficient fighting troops. Not only have the great bulk of the towns in the vicinity of camps assisted this commission in cleaning-up—they have entered with admirable enthusiasm into the commission's programme for entertaining soldiers and placing at their disposal the recreation resources of the city. Under the War Camp Community Service, undertaken by the Recreation Association of America, the difficult task of assimilating the floating soldier population has proceeded with a heartiness which fits in perfectly with the government policy—not simply of repressing vice, but of setting up a competitive system—a system of organized amusement and clean recreation."

The Attitude of the Returning Soldier.

Young men so prepared for war and cared for during war will come back from France with firm muscles, healthy skins, balanced bodies, and sound lungs. They will return with new standards of living and being. They will return to every corner of our common country whence they came, preachers of the gospel of health and decency and morality—and shall it be said that those who remain at home have been unfaithful to the same standards and will they turn a deaf ear to these evangels of a new morality? Woe betide them if they do!

Indeed it is a pertinent question as to "What sort of a city will the soldier find when he comes back from the front?" In the words of the Bishop of Pennsylvania:

Here then, is our work, cut out for us, put up to us. It is every bit as critical as the work which is done in first-line trenches. It is even more important. For there is no use in plowing if there is no seed. There is no use in building houses if there are no tenants. There is no use in conquering the Germans on the battlefields abroad if we are not prepared to use the fruits of victory at home! This war is waged to make the world a decent place to live in, or, as Christians would prefer to put it, to set up the Kingdom of God upon this earth. Prudence, brethren, suggests that we should set about it here and now.

"Behold! I make all things new." When the boys come home they will be bent on newness. They will look with new eyes upon our homes, our education, our commercial system, our politics, our international relations. There will be a new and firm strength of purpose behind their demand for drastic change. Shall they, or shall they not, find us ready for it and working at it?

Americanizing America.

In every direction the war is making changes in methods, in standards, in ideals. It is sweeping into the dump heap old ideas of public life and service, old ideas of administration and legislation. It is bringing new forces into the field. It is welding the nation together as never before. The various drives for the Liberty Loan, the War Saving Stamps, the Red Cross, the War Chest are performing a function. They are making Americans. They are making America known unto herself. They are Americanizing Americans. The Government as such is being brought to the knowledge and consciousness of the smallest community, the humblest individual and this is bound to be reflected in the public activities of the individual and of their organization. Particularly in the cities will this new spirit manifest itself where congestion, already great, is becoming greater. The influx of new citizens, however,

MUNICIPAL PREPAREDNESS—Continued.

will tend to break up old combinations and make new and more public-spirited ones possible.

Our foreign populations are being touched and melted into our citizenship. Once we thought of Americanization as John Collier so happily puts it, as consisting of getting naturalized. Then we thought that learning English was Americanization. Then we decided that a better intellectual grasp of American history and of American political ways was needed for Americanizing the immigrant. Then the war came along, and our conception of Americanization broadened a thousand-fold. What does Americanization mean to us now?"

We are in the world arena, no longer an isolated people. We have decided that nations across the globe from us are fighting for those ideals for which our American grandfathers fought. We have decided that democracy is a world issue, that justice is an international concern, that brotherhood is as wide as the human race. We are no longer just talking about these things, we are giving our treasure, we are freezing in the winter and putting our children on short rations and we will ere long be shedding the blood of our soldiers, because we believe that these things are so.

We now see that Americanization consists in a fitting of all the dwellers in America, alien and native alike, for that new and greater, more gorgeous, more generous-hearted America of to-morrow. Our Americanism looks forward, not backward.

Wherein We Are Failing.

It is not an edifying spectacle, however, to see our cities failing in important duties at this critical time, failing to such an extent that the federal government is compelled to interfere in the interests of the preservation of the American army. New York, Philadelphia, Chicago have not been giving a good account of themselves, and numerous smaller cities are falling behind in their citizenship as shown in their elections. Public spirited, socially conscious, far visioned men have not been conspicuously to the front as candidates. The most that cities like Chicago can say is that loyal men have been chosen—but we must have something more than loyalty, something more than goodness—we must have loyalty and goodness plus—plus ability, public spirit, vision a discernment of the time.

Who was it that said: "Democracy can never be achieved in reality without direct understanding and conscious participation of every individual citizen." We shall never have good government, in the broadest conception of that term, until we want it, want it all the time, want it sufficiently to work for it, not now and then, not a few days each year, but every day in every year.

There seems to be a recession in certain of the commission-manager cities which have heretofore bulked large in the public eye, notwithstanding that in many communities the commission manager is considered a war measure. Why is this? Largely because the people in those communities thought that the form of government took the place of and made unnecessary, the active co-operation of the citizenry. There is a direct ratio between public interest and public service.

Let us hope that the women who are so generally coming into a direct participation in the responsibility for government will exercise the same persistency, intelligence and fine appreciation of the situation they have been manifesting in their war time activities. They are unquestionably fitting themselves for an effective participation in public affairs that holds out great hope for the future.

Extending Municipal Functions.

The British Labor Party holds that cities "should not confine their activities to the necessary costly services of education, sanitation and police, nor yet rest content with acquiring control of the local water, gas, electricity, and tramways, but that every facility should be afforded to them to acquire (easily, quickly and cheaply) all the land they require, and to extend their enterprises in housing and town planning, parks and public libraries, the provision of music and the organization of recreation; and also to undertake, besides the retailing of coal, other services of common utility, particularly the local supply of milk, wherever this is not already fully organized by a co-operative society."

Transportation and distribution have become vital war time problems for our cities and are receiving an attention that will work their reorganization. If cities do not undertake this of their own volition, then the federal gov-

ernment will step in. It has already given an intimation of its intention so to do. In a letter to the President, the secretary of the treasury said earlier in the year:

Our local public utilities must not be permitted to become weakened. The transportation of workers to and from our vital industries and the health and comfort of our citizens in their homes are dependent upon them, and the necessary power to drive many of our war industries, and many other industries essential to the war is produced by them. It may be that here and there, because of the prominence given to less important interests immediately at hand, state and local authorities do not always appreciate the close connection between the soundness and efficiency of these local utilities, and the national strength and vigor, and do not resort with sufficient promptness to the call for remedial measures. In such cases I am confident that all such state and local authorities will respond promptly to the national needs when the matter is fairly and properly brought before them.

Our public service utilities are closely connected with and are an essential part of our preparations for the successful prosecution of the war, and the unfavorable tendencies which the accompanying papers reveal may most effectively be checked, wherever they may be found to exist, and the needed relief obtained, only by prompt action on the part of the respective local authorities.

Following this letter means were taken to improve conditions which forecast further steps should there be any let up in efficiency or adequacy. Moreover, the public discussion of transportation both here and abroad foreshadows a complete change of attitude. Not infrequently do we hear the analogy that as the big buildings of the present day (which are in reality communities in themselves) furnish free transportation (by means of elevators) why should not the city furnish transportation free as a municipal service? In some British cities such a policy has actually been followed.

The Overshadowing City.

Of the extension of municipal functions there is no end. In 1914 the city budget of New York was \$100,000,000 (four times as much as the State of New York spent). For 1917, it was \$211,114,136.82. Surely we may speak of "the overshadowing city," and the need for constructive statesmanship. The Civil War was a time of rapid growth for cities, but in that life and death struggle of the nation the people had little time to devote to their government. They were absorbed in winning the war. The result was that the enemies of good government who never let their patriotism stand in the way of their profits, found the cities decidedly "easy pickings." Remember the Tweed Ring exposures of the early seventies! To-day we are in exactly the same danger. The enemies of good government have already won out in New York.

In this crisis, the National Municipal League stands (to quote from a letter of a Minneapolis member to his friends in that city), "as it has always stood, for honest and efficient city administration. It is going to fight during the war to make every city efficient for war service. Whether the need is good housing for munitions workers, expert organization for relief of war sufferers, a better charter, or better business standards, the National Municipal League will lend its aid and its advice. It will do its part to keep the cities efficient and safe for democracy, good places for our soldiers to which to come back." Nay, it may be depended upon to do more. It may be depended upon to promote a truly democratic spirit without which democracy will be safe nowhere."

While we have not been backward in emphasizing our civic shortcomings we must always bear in mind the vast difference between the American and the German conception of government. In contrasting Canadian and German ideas, Frederick Wright, in the Canadian Municipal Journal, said it would be a sorry day if the Germanic brand of local government ever had an opportunity of being introduced into Canada—"our rights and privileges as citizens to control our own municipalities would be gone, and without the satisfaction of knowing that we were being controlled even efficiently. I remember some years ago having to make a study of civic government in Germany itself—as it actually exists, or did; not as it is worked out on paper. I had to get the facts, and all I need say is, that living under the most adverse municipal conditions in Canada is very much preferable to a man with red blood in his veins, to living under the conditions of municipal Germany. The German form of civic govern-

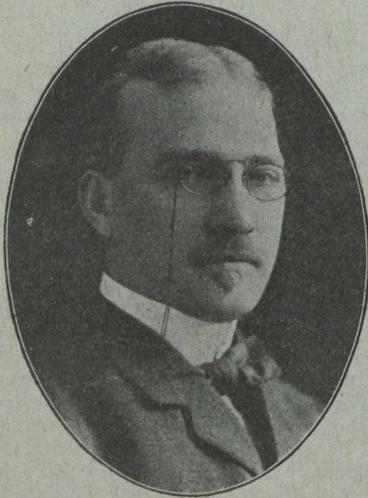
MUNICIPAL PREPAREDNESS—Continued.

ment is in reality but a detail of the state government which is bureaucratic in form, and so far as the head—the Kaiser—is concerned, autocratic in power. Citizenship, as we understand the term, is unknown in Germany, the men and women being merely numbers, their usefulness being measured principally by their procreation proclivities."

The Prussianism That Must be Exterminated.

Compare this form of citizenship with what we enjoy in America, or can enjoy if we would but put forth our hand, the control of our government, its conception, its purpose, its administration, its ideals. The basis of our voting lists is becoming truly democratic, our governmental machinery is being simplified and made truly responsive, equal opportunities are being opened to all, brotherhood and social interdependence is developing on every side, co-operation is becoming the order of the day. "It was only a little river, almost a brook; it was called the Yser." So writes a French school boy. "One could talk from one side to the other without raising one's

CLINTON ROGERS WOODRUFF,



Sec., National Municipal League.

voice, and the birds could fly over it with one sweep of their wings. And on the two banks there were millions of men, the one turned toward the other, eye to eye. But the distance which separated them was greater than the stars in the sky; it was the distance which separates right from injustice." It was the distance which separates the American ideals of government and citizenship from those of Germany.

There is a form of Prussianism in our cities, however, which must be exterminated—the autocratic boss and his machine. It represents in spirit and practice all that we are fighting to defeat on the battlefields of Europe. We must not fail, those of us who remain upon this side of the ocean, to do our share in rooting out every form of Prussianism, wherever found, wherever practiced. It is hateful in Europe. It is equally hateful here and we must not ask our boys who are hazarding their all to come back to find here what they thought they had defeated and killed across the waters.

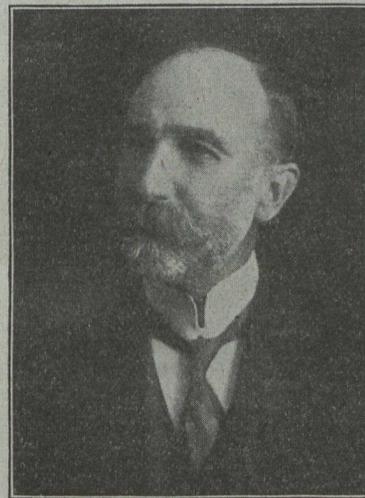
We must prepare for the future, now, by building up our cities as strong, efficient democratic units, that they may do their full share in winning the war and be prepared to solve the multitude of difficulties which will follow in the wake of the war. The breaking out of war found us unprepared for its prosecution. Let us hope and work that the coming of peace will not find us unprepared for peace.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON UNIFORM MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTING AND STATISTICS FOR PRESENTATION TO THE MEETING OF THE UNION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES, HELD AT VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, 9th JULY, 1918.

It is with gratification that we are able to report prospects of a considerable advance in the efforts begun some eleven years ago by the Union for the adoption of Uniform System of Accounting and Statistics.

The subject has never been allowed to rest and it was my privilege to attend a conference in the city of Ottawa, on the 9th June, 1918, called by Mr. R. H. Coats, Dominion Statistician, and comprising representatives from all the Provinces save British Columbia and Prince Edward Island.

At this conference we had the advantage of the advice of Dr. Davis of the Census Bureau, Washington, D. C. The principal work of this conference was the discussion of Vital Statistics. The interest shown was very marked and those present expressed themselves freely, and the result was the practical adoption of a model bill covering the subject. Resolutions were adopted confirming certain acceptable principles, and the schedules to be used in



MR. H. J. ROSS, L.I.A.

all cases of Vital Statistics were approved, so that in the near future all the Provinces will be furnishing the Dominion Bureau with the same schedule as to births, marriages, deaths, etc. Some adjustments of the classes and some slight changes in the verbiage were left to a Committee composed of the different Provinces, and this Committee met on the 21st June.

I was able to have quite a talk with Mr. Coats, especially on the subject of Municipal Accounting, and went into the matter very thoroughly with a representative of his Bureau and we found a common ground which promised to be quite acceptable to the Provinces. The time seems opportune—the Government is in a liberal frame of mind and is assuming all the onus and expense of the work, and it will therefore be up to the Provinces to do their part in order that the results desired may be attained.

It should be clearly born in mind that whatever may be done by the Dominion Bureau is done without a desire or the least intention to dictate a policy, but in so far as these statistics are concerned, they were born and nourished by the Union of Canadian Municipalities, and whatever measure of success may be attained will reflect to the credit of the Union.

On behalf of the Committee therefore I do not hesitate to urge upon the Provinces and the Municipalities a prompt recognition of the forms, and that the Provinces may see fit to eventually adopt laws to make them regular or may we say compulsory.

I regret that circumstances do not permit my attendance at the Convention, but I perhaps may be permitted to wish one and all not only a pleasant sojourn in the old city of Victoria, where I spent the best part of a year (thirty-one years ago), but that the matters that are discussed may prove of great benefit to those interested.

H. J. ROSS,

Chairman.

Mr. R. H. Coats' address outlining the plan of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics appeared in the August issue of the Canadian Municipal Journal.

"A National Debt"

ARTHUR H. D. HAIR.

(Second Instalment.)

From time to time we hear through the press suggestions of reciprocal liquidation of International War debts. Whether such a stupendous undertaking can ever be equitably and satisfactorily arranged is within the bounds of question, but there is a "national debt" that the nations of the world can never liquidate, and that debt is the debt of gratitude we owe to those who at the command of their respective Governments:

From England, Austral, many a Scottish hill
Where 'mong the heather sweet, the blue-bell blows
From Erin, where the shamrock blooms at will
From "Lady of the Snows" they came,
And now beneath an alien sky
In many a lonely valley, side by side
By Death, made closer brothers, do they lie:—
The Brave, who nobly died.

And added to those who paid the supreme sacrifice on the field of honour, will be the terrible aftermath of human wreckage that will strew the path of the next fifty years. What is our responsibility towards these, and especially their offspring and dependents? Can we as a nation avoid responsibility for respectful interment at death of any man who has responded—either voluntarily, or by draft—to the rally to arms, should that man subsequent to discharge, fall on hard times, and die friendless and in indigency?

Technically, the Government today finds a way out of its responsibility in this matter, though morally it cannot, and the shame and ingratitude of abandonment of its heroes in the last extremity redounds to the nation's disgrace.

Let us for a moment consider the class from which we principally draw our fighting men—it is true that the Empire as a whole has furnished of her very best blood, and men of position and wealth, but nevertheless it is an incontrovertible fact that the vast majority have been of the humbler and improvident classes who live practically from hand to mouth, and who when adversity and the Reaper comes upon them, have little or nothing financially to fall back upon: in consequence, it is not surprising that perforce many are obliged to suffer humility and admit their improvidence, under the most trying circumstances, and strange, though nevertheless true to humanities traits, there are those amongst us small enough to have little sympathy for enforced penury, going so far as to suggest that failure to provide for such a contingency as death merits the reward it gets from the nation—a pauper's grave. While the writer would feign deny the most despicable human creature Christian burial, there might be some, more or less, logical argument in support of the above contention of the astute (though soul-less) political economist who advances such a theory, were it not that we champion the soldier, or sailor's right to "six feet of earth" by reason of the fact that he (literally) fights for it, and furthermore, whether he has done so voluntarily or through enforcement of the Draft Law should not effect the principle in regard to the nation's obligation and self-respect. It is the very least return we can give those we ask to do our fighting for us that we might live in peace and safety.

The periodical press reports and degrading spectacle of an old soldier who had "fought and bled for his country," and in the last extremity of death been abandoned to a pauper's grave, inspired a few men in Montreal in 1909 to band themselves together, and form an association which they called the "Last Post" Fund, the primary purpose of which association was to prevent a recurrence in the Province of Quebec, of such a spectacle of national ingratitude, at least until the Government could be convinced that it should assume this responsibility. This association by reason of its commendable object has succeeded in aligning with its cause, the names and sympathy of men of the very widest prominence and note in all walks of life, who have committed themselves to the principle that "To honour and protect in death, seems but a small return to him who has protected the nation's honour in life."

Since the year of its inception in 1909 the association has approached the Militia Council, as well as the Fed-

eral and Provincial Governments, by strongly endorsed petitions on the following dates:—

The Militia Council—December 4th, 1909.
The Militia Council—January 2nd, 1913.
The Militia Council—November 14th, 1914.
The Provincial Premier—July 17th, 1916.
The Prime Minister (Federal)—Aug. 9th, 1917.
The Militia Council—October 14th, 1918.

In addition to which the association has placed before the Government the draft of a scheme—based on ten years' practical experience—for the solution of this problem, and the creation of the proper machinery to deal with it, but all with the net result to date, that, "the matter will receive the careful consideration of the Federal authorities" and "the Provincial authorities feel that the Federal ones should move first."

In the meantime men are daily returning from the front, and the Government is relieving itself of responsibility—by discharge—of those physical wrecks who are "medically unfit for further service" with a Pension that makes no proviso for the contingency of death should it occur one day prior to receipt of the pension cheque—an indication of short sightedness in the pension appropriations.

During the present epidemic of influenza, when seven or eight deaths a day have occurred amongst the military men alone in Montreal, the absolute lack of a military burial reservation has been mitigated by the provision of the "Last Post" Fund whereby those eligible, may be interred in the Fund's plots on condition that a subscription is made, and the rules of the association observed. Had the Government's attention never been drawn to the need of such provision as the "Last Post" Fund has made by voluntary effort, there would be some excuse, but on the face of facts as presented it has shown a deplorable apathy.

In further proof of the "Last Post" Fund having accomplished and given practical demonstration of a crying need that should have been undertaken by the Government at least at the beginning of the war, the following brief statistics will be interesting: Since its inception, and to date, sixty-six Roman Catholics, and one hundred and nine of other denominations, totalling one hundred and seventy-four soldiers, and one sailor, have been interred in the two plots owned by the association, approximately 80 per cent. of these cases have occurred during the present war and are steadily on the increase.

Failing the provision of a national military burial ground, and for various good reasons the local military authorities availed themselves of the opportunity afforded to bury many men in the "Last Post" plots who at time of decease were on the active list, on the other hand it is a matter of satisfaction to the patriotic citizen, and of credit to the association, to state that nearly 32 per cent. of the total burials in the plots have actually been saved the ignominy of an unknown grave, while no less than five returned soldiers reached the city morgue of Montreal, and were reclaimed by the Fund for burial.

It is worthy of note in passing, that the work of the "Last Post" Fund which entails a vast amount of onerous and doleful energy, is done by the officers of the association without remuneration.

Through this organization the Province of Quebec is unique with regard to the care of the dead, "who died that we might live."

Apart from what this Fund has done, what has Canada as a whole done, to meet this debt we owe to our heroes?

This apathy towards a subject of the gravest importance, reflects very discreditably on the conception of national sentiment by those who are responsible for its evasion.

Looking around we find that in the Motherland, while much remains to be desired and adequate, they at least appreciated at the outset of the war that many Canadian and other overseas Dominion lands would die in their midst far from home and friends, and accordingly apportioned a considerable tract of land in cemeteries at Shorncliffe and elsewhere where these heroes would be given an honored resting place, and annually huge processions of children rally there to strew the graves with

YORK TOWNSHIP HAS NEW WATER SUPPLY.

York Township is situated north and west of the City of Toronto, occupies an area of about 54,725 acres, and has an estimated population of about 34,000. The portions contiguous to the North and West City limits, covering an area of approximately 5,500 acres and constituting the water supply sections, have a population of about 25,000, and this is rapidly increasing. The total taxable assessment of the Township in 1918 amounted to \$24,204,934, of which about \$11,000,000 was on property included in the water supply areas, extending from the vicinity of Avenue Road on the West to the River Humber and from Weston to the Lake Front.

As there was no municipal water supply available in the urban parts of the Township, excepting for a short distance on a few streets adjoining the City of Toronto, house owners had to sink wells. The large number of such wells, more or less shallow in depth, and the location of cess-pools in a populous district, rendered the sanitary conditions to be unsatisfactory, and a menace to the inhabitants of the Township. Furthermore, there is an intimate inter-communication between the Township and the City, by virtue of the fact that a large number of workpeople who dwell in the Township are employed in the City, and moreover, many are engaged in munition works or in different vocations allied to munitions.

As there was a danger of contamination due to the proximity of cess-pools to the water wells, and owing to the serious handicap and expense of having to dig wells which often proved to be inadequate and had to be abandoned, the inhabitants during the last three or four years became most insistent that a comprehensive scheme of water works should be installed by the township. The Council gave this matter every consideration and endeavoured to find a satisfactory and economic solution. They succeeded by negotiations with the Toronto City Corporation to obtain the necessary supply from the city system; terms were agreed upon and special legislative powers from the Ontario Parliament were applied for and obtained in 1916 and 1917.

After receiving the necessary authority, plans and specifications were prepared by the Engineer, Mr. Frank Barber, of Toronto, for the more essential trunk mains, these were approved by the Provincial Board of Health, the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, and the City Commissioner of Works, Toronto. The city authorities have the right to inspect the works as they progress, as it is anticipated that some day the limits of the City of Toronto may be extended to include parts of these areas.

Contracts were let and mains were laid in 1917 and 1918, made up of 13,800 feet of 24-inch and 42,529 of 12-inch, or 10½ miles.

The 24-inch trunk main constitutes the principal artery of the system so far as it applies to Section A. and had to be constructed before it was possible to obtain a permanent supply in that Section. The 12-inch mains are neces-

sary to afford the foundation of a satisfactory distribution and circulation of the water supply. Consequently, it was expedient to construct these in the first part of the programme of construction. The cost of the 24-inch trunk main is to be raised by a special rate on all the rateable property in Section A. The cost of the 12-inch mains is to be divided; 55 per cent of the entire cost of the mains together with the entire cost of the measuring equipments on the same is to be raised by a special rate on all rateable property in the two Sections, whilst the balance of 45 per cent is to be raised on local improvement basis and specially assessed on lots fronting and abutting directly on the works.

The Council undertakes to lay water mains, only where it considers that they are urgently required and can be of immediate use to the residents, so as to improve the conditions already referred to. The six-inch mains are laid as local improvements, that is, the Council finances the work and will be refunded the cost by the property owners in annual installments during a period of ten years. Building operations for about four years have been reduced to very small dimensions, compared with the needs of the district, because of the war and the difficulty of obtaining materials and labor at a reasonable price. There is a demand for houses, and when peace is declared the demand will be much intensified. It is therefore deemed expedient, as far as possible, to prepare facilities to home builders, and to organize for future employment of the returned soldiers.

During the season of 1918 about forty 6-inch reticulation or distributing mains were laid extending over a total length of about ten and a half miles.

The entire work was carried out under the direction of Mr. R. O. Wynne-Roberts, C.E., who is associated with Mr. Frank Barber.

A CHANCE FOR CANADIAN CONSUMERS.

Consumers of Canada have now an opportunity of ascertaining whether the prices they pay for foodstuffs are reasonable and fair or possible extortions by alleged profiteers. All they have to do in each municipality in Canada is to ask their municipal council to appoint a Fair Price Committee to investigate the prices asked by retailers and to draw conclusions as to whether these prices are fair and reasonable. These Fair Price Committees will then publish their findings in the form of lists.

In this way the consumers will make sure whether they are paying prices which are unreasonable and unfair or not. It may be that the prices which the Committee considers to be fair and reasonable will not be any lower than the present prices charged by retailers. In some cases they may be higher. But that need not bother the consumer so long as he is satisfied through the investigation of the impartial Fair Price Committee within his own municipality that the prices published indicate a fair and reasonable standard to guide both consumer and retailer, having in mind war conditions and the unsettling of pre-war prices.

If there is a desire on the part of the consumers to find out just where they stand in regard to prices which they have to pay for foodstuffs, they now have a golden opportunity to have the matter dealt with once and for all under the provisions of the recent Order-in-Council, fathered by the Department of Labor, relative to the appointment of municipal Fair Price Committees.

In some quarters it is said that Fair Price Committees will not solve the food problem present in most households. It may be pertinent to suggest that municipal Fair Price Committees first should be given a chance to show that they can find a solution before the principle of municipal Fair Price Committees is condemned out of hand. It is a good rule to support measures that seem to tend in the right direction. A similar program has been effected in the United States.

The virtue of this Order-in-Council, giving authority to municipalities to appoint Fair Price Committees to investigate the prices consumers have to pay, lies in the publicity that will be given to the findings. In this way public opinion will be informed, and enlightened public opinion may be trusted to co-operate in all national food efforts if it knows the facts. You can always give anything a thorough trial once.

A NATIONAL DEBT.—(Continued).

flowers and perpetuate their memory. In France (where patriotism is closely associated with religion, and understood in a very literal sense), we find they have the most profound respect for the dead of their allies as well as their own, and have already formed a powerful association headed by the President of the Republic, to tend with the deepest respect the graves of all allies' soldiers whose mortal remains rest in French soil, and it can be confidently assumed from the tone of a letter sent out by this association to "The Fathers and Mothers, of our departed heroes" throughout the North American Continent, that no ex-soldier of her allies will reach an unknown grave, in France.

Turning our attention to our Ally on the South—the United States—we find that it is the one and only nation in the world whose Capitol and State Governments make provision for the contingency of death of their ex-soldiers and sailors, and to prevent abandonment in the last extremity each and every State in the Union makes a money grant ranging from \$40 to \$75 for funeral expenses, with a grave in one of the National Cemeterise.

Is it not high time that we in Canada should rise to the occasion and in support of our repeated profession of loyalty to our boys at the front, see to it that when they return, many of them doomed to a shortened period of life, they will not be the objects of charity at death,

Municipal Finance

JAMES MURRAY.

UNIFORMITY IN ASSESSMENTS.

Two very interesting and instructive studies have recently come into this office both showing the total lack of uniformity in municipal assessment, not only in Canada, but within each province. The first study is by Mr. E. M. Wood, the Deputy Municipal Commissioner of Manitoba who in an excellent synopsis on "Assessment and Taxation of Property in Manitoba Municipalities" says:—

"The equalization of the assessment of the several municipalities in the Province upon which the annual levies of the Municipal Commissioner for the requirements of the judicial districts and other authorized purposes are based, is a subject of commanding importance. An attempt was made in this direction a short time ago by a board appointed for the purpose. On account, however, of the utter lack of uniformity in assessments throughout the Province as to value, and otherwise, and the difficulties encountered in procuring satisfactory data in the premises, the result was far from satisfactory or reassuring, and it is my belief that no great improvement is possible under existing conditions. If the law was that all land, both urban and rural, should be assessed at its value, and buildings at a uniform rate, and if this statutory obligation was faithfully observed by competent assessors, the work of equalization would present no serious difficulties. Without very drastic changes in the assessment law as it now stands, and more perfect methods are devised to replace the present haphazard provisions, the injustice that many ratepayers throughout the Province are laboring under at the present time cannot fail to continue. Every effort should be made to bring about changes relating to this most important subject.

The second study is published by the Toronto Bureau of Municipal Research under Dr. Brittain in bulletin form. The Bureau took 20 Ontario municipalities as a basis to work upon and what it has shown up in the peculiar and different constructions put on one law by as many municipalities is quite interesting. What Mr. Wood and Dr. Brittain are preaching to-day, namely more uniformity and equalization in municipal assessments others have urged before in these columns, but now that two such authorities have taken up the matter seriously it is hoped that something will be done to bring about more equity and unity in our systems of municipal taxation. For what is true of Ontario and Manitoba is equally true of every other Province.

As to the best method to be adopted to bring about more equality of taxation both studies urge centralization of Provincial administration, and in this we heartily agree. Not only this, but we would go further and urge that from time to time such Provincial administrations should meet with the idea of bringing about a uniform system for the whole of Canada; but that will come in time. The main object of all advocacy of uniform municipal assessment should be in bringing about an administration for the whole of each province—or at least, as Dr. Brittain puts it, a Provincial Bureau of Equalization.

Both studies make a point of the efficiency, or otherwise, of the assessors. Bulletin No. 3 of the Toronto Bureau shows that in the 20 municipalities 1,548 appeals were made against local assessments, of which 820 were granted. This does not show a particularly high standard of efficiency on the part of the assessors; though it must be said that the majority of the appeals were against the local income-tax—always a difficult question to solve. The position of assessor is sometimes a difficult and always a delicate one, but so long as good judgment and strict impartiality are used no assessor should fear for his ruling? The difficulty is that outside the large centres the position of assessor is badly paid and usually filled by amateurs, who may know all about their own municipality but little or nothing about comparative values, particularly in relation to neighbouring municipalities. The consequence is the taxpayer is often dissatisfied and the municipality too often loses necessary income.

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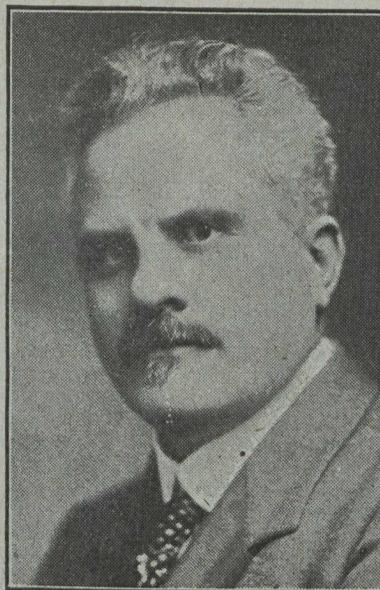
THE SONG OF THE PRAIRIE LAND.

When this war is over and Canada takes up her normal duties again it will be with a new vista. Her sons will better appreciate the great heritage which they have guarded so well on the fields of Flanders, and her daughters will realize that that Canada which has given so much to the cause of liberty, has a national spirit of her own. Her songs will be sung with a new meaning, and her writers and even her poets better appreciated by those who in the past could only see virtue in the foreigner and his works. These thoughts suggested themselves to my mind when reading the poems of Wilson MacDonald, who, though he is Canadian born, and has written and published a number of gems, has never been appreciated at his true value. Possibly this is because of his extreme modesty. Be that as it may, Canadians will shortly have the opportunity of reading a volume of Mr. MacDonald's work which will be published under the general title of "The Song of the Prairie Land," by Messrs. McClelland and Goodchild, of Toronto.

That the author is not only a lover of the great west, but knows how to express its beauty and its vastness in verse is well exemplified in the poem that bears the title of the volume. "The Song of the Prairie Land" is rich in the language of the western soil. "The Rancher" is expressive of the romance of the West, and "Trapper One and Trapper Two" teaches the lesson of one man's love to another. The strong and dignified poem on "British Columbia" will surely stimulate that love for his native province that every British Columbian ought to have—and no doubt has. Every one of the thirty poems which make up the first volume is worth reading by every Canadian who would enjoy a virile picture of his or her native land—its soil, its people, its love, its very life. Mr. Wilson MacDonald is to be congratulated on his first volume of verse, which is gotten up by the publishers in a very attractive style, for the small sum of \$1.50.

STUDY ON MUNICIPAL INVESTMENTS.

By J. F. BOULAIS.*



I yield with pleasure to your kind invitation, to write for your paper a few notes on Trade carried in Municipal, Provincial and School Bonds, which is now going on in the Province of Quebec. In order that this study should not be too long, notwithstanding the largeness of the subject to be treated, permit me first to classify the different aspects as follows:

A.—The origin and the reasons of the vulgarisation of this business.

B.—The value of the merchandise which is dealt in.

C.—Who are those who should invest their money in Debentures.

D.—Finally, who are the principal natural intermediaries in the Province of Quebec, for this kind of business.

To the first question, I will say that this kind of obligation existed here, since the origin of the legislative organization of our country. Our government conceded themselves the power to tax persons under their jurisdiction, and to make borrowings repayable at long terms or by annuities, so as 1st, to pay overhead charges and 2nd, the cost of Public works necessary to its development.

These Powers which our legislators first created for the above needs, were afterwards transmitted to Municipal, School and other Corporations with certain rules and restrictions which are found in the Municipal, School codes, and different towns and Cities charters.

As we see, this business is not a new venture, but on account of the indisputable guarantee of the values traded in, and their big superiority to all other forms of loans,—as we will discuss later—the rate of interest was much lower in the past than the same bonds bear since the outbreak of the war. They were therefore attractive only to big loan companies and big capitalists of foreign countries, who look before all, to the security of their investments, while our local investors preferred to invest their savings in ventures yielding a larger return.

Moreover, these obligations were only issued at that time in multiples of \$1,000 and for a term rarely shorter than 30 or 40 years, which meant they were practically inaccessible to the small investor or occasional lender. Since the entry into the war of these foreign countries who heretofore furnished us with this high finance, we have been left to our own resources, and not only have we been obliged to provide the money necessary for the payment of current works, but also, we have had to provide here, the required funds to repay loans borrowed from foreigners and due since the beginning of the war.

This is the reason why we often hear in the street that this business has taken an exaggerated expansion, and our municipalities run into debt, uncautiously. No, no, our Canadian Municipalities have never been so prosperous than they are now, and the same financial operations took place in the past, as they do to-day, but at that time, only the administrators were aware of the fact.

The increase of the bond business, is due to the fact that the municipalities not being able to borrow from foreigners, have at the suggestion of the bond brokers, worked in a manner to interest the local capitalists, 1st, in increasing the rate from 4 per cent to 6 per cent, 2nd, in offering their debentures in multiples of \$100, \$500, \$1,000, 3rd, in reducing the term to five or ten years.

*President of the firm Versailles, Vidricaire, Boulais, Ltd., Investment Bankers, Montreal.

It is very easy to establish the value of the obligations above mentioned as the laws which govern their issue only permit to the administrators, for fiduciary reimbursements, to affect this privilege with absolute priority on all mortgages and ordinary charges on all the properties of a Province, in the case of a Provincial Debenture, and the properties of a town or a city, if they are municipal debentures, and last of all the properties of a village if they are debentures issued by a village. Our Government have long ago understood the value of these obligations, as they allow by statute, administrators of legacies, curators to interdicted persons and tutors to minors, to invest their wards' money in them.

Moreover, these corporations cannot increase their debt by issuing debentures without proceeding in the following manner:

A.—Passing a by-law voted by the majority of the council.

B.—Have same approved by the majority of the tax payers both in number and value.

C.—Obtaining the sanction of the Lieutenant Governor in Council and moreover during the war, the authorization of the Minister of Finance of Canada.

D.—To have their debentures approved in most cases by the Municipal Department recently created in Quebec; and beyond all these precautions, a municipality cannot generally borrow more than ten or twenty per cent. of its total Municipal valuation; and all properties situated within its limits (those non taxable included) are a guarantee, as stated above, to the payment of its obligations. Therefore this way of investing in mostly all cases is without doubt, the best possible.

Third aspect of the question:—

Who are the ones that should invest their money in these obligations? I reply: All those who have a savings account and those who can dispose of small or large sums.

Big sums first. The war having stopped the real estate movement, loans on mortgages are very seldom in demand.

As to the small investors they cannot find a better, easier and most profitable investment than to invest in Municipal debentures, which are now selling in multiples of \$100.00 or more, with a yield of 6 p.c.

There is therefore no reason for our fellow citizens to leave their savings unproductive or at 3 per cent when they can invest them at 6 per cent. on values just as easy to negotiate as a deposit in a Savings Bank.

Money thus invested will be absolutely protected against all temptation of luxuries and will considerably contribute to increase the national richness. To work then, and do not lose one moment.

And then the last question.

Who are the best intermediaries in the Province of Quebec to cater to this kind of business. I confess I am more uneasy to answer this question than the others.

The reason is nevertheless very simple, and I am very eager to give it to you. It is, that, I myself belong to the two professions which I recommend.

First and the best, because of his broader experience is the banker, that is to say the professional bond dealers, the ones who belong to the Bond Dealers' Association preferred, because of their special organization, of the responsibility they enjoy and of their almost joint liability.

Secondly, our best associates are the notaries, and I am as well at ease to tell you why—that I have long ago proven the confidence I have in them. Since twenty years that I am a banker, I have never ceased to testify the gratitude I have in them, for the sincere support and scrupulous honesty they always gave me every time requested. Yes, they are the most natural intermediaries because of their legal and commercial training, the easiest to reach, considering their distribution in all parts of the Province, and then the most reliable because of the high position they occupy in society, and their permanent residence in each of their districts; as it would suffice to a notary to put through once, a shady proposition in his district, to lose forever the confidence of his clients.

These precautions in the choice of the middleman are to my opinion, the more so necessary, there is in this business, as I told you before, very good bonds, others not so good, and also doubtful ones:

This business essentially, of high and wholesome finance, will only be prosperous and permanent in the Province of Quebec, as long as it will not hamper other established legitimate business, necessary to the development of the country. In intersecting the savings of our fellow citi-

(Continued on Page 782.)

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CONTROLLING PRICES.

The Canadian Municipal Journal evidently approves the action of the federal administration in placing on municipal bodies the responsibility of seeing that the prices of food do not get beyond a reasonable figure. It will be recalled that a few days ago when the new regulations proposed by the government to regulate the prices of commodities were announced there was a storm of protest from some of the local municipal authorities to the effect that the administration was "attempting to pass the buck" to the civic bodies. The Citizen, while admitting that the action of the government was belated and perhaps not as complete a one as might have been evolved in the circumstances, advised a getting together of the municipal and federal authorities in order that the former might place their objections before the proper representatives and secure the additional powers which they alleged were necessary if the new regulations were to amount to anything. The Canadian Municipal Journal, the official publication of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, in its latest issue contains an expression of opinion as to the proper course for the administration to adopt to check the rising tide of food prices. The editorial in the Journal was evidently written before the promulgation of the recent government order, and it is interesting to note that the Journal advocates the very course since adopted by the administration. Says the editorial:

"But there is a part of the Food Board's work that needs developing—namely, control of prices. We fully recognize that the primary object of the board is to get foodstuffs over to Great Britain and her allies, and that to achieve this object certain regulations had to be made and carried out, concerning the consumption of food, but as yet no serious attempt has been made to regulate the prices of those foodstuffs allowed to be used in Canada. The consequence is the consumer has been exploited to such an extent that it unnecessarily hurts, and it is time this exploitation was stopped. It is true that there is in force an order-in-council giving the Minister of Labor certain powers to regulate, in conjunction with the municipal councils, the prices of food stuffs, but the order for all practical purposes is a dead letter, because it is unworkable, so that if the government is really in earnest in regulating prices it must try some other method—something more direct. Our suggestion is that the present order-in-council regulating prices be rescinded and that a new order be made giving the local councils power, with summary jurisdiction, to control the prices of all foodstuffs sold within their respective municipalities, and that administration of the order be made part of the work of the food board. In this way the local authorities, who are in daily touch with the people and their requirements, would be made responsible, either through a committee of the council or a local commission, for the proper administration of the order. As it is, no one is responsible, and the profiteers are having the time of their lives."

The administration has given the municipal authorities certain powers under the new regulations, sufficient to regulate prices within their jurisdiction. The civic authorities allege that the fixing of fair prices is not possible without considerable extension of their powers, to include outside sources of production. The Canadian Municipal Journal thinks that the principle of co-operation would bring about results and it is this course that The Citizen has in mind in suggesting that the municipal and federal authorities get together and thresh the matter out. Meanwhile, as our contemporary notes, the profiteers are certainly enjoying the situation and have no intention to ask for an armistice.—Ottawa Citizen.

Mr. William C. Beyer has been recently elected assistant assistant director of the Bureau of Municipal Research of Philadelphia.

During Director Frederick P. Gruenberg's absence in Washington, where he is connected with the U. S. Shipping Board, Mr. Boyer is acting director.

STUDY ON MUNICIPAL INVESTMENTS.

(Continued from Page 381.)

zens to the notary, the natural intermediary—according to the legal organization existing in this Province — between the lender and the borrower, this official is in a position to satisfy the local needs first, and protect the rest from the ambulant dealer and schemer.

I would therefore impress on you the importance of being very cautious in the choice of a true worthy person to whom you bring your confidence and patronage.

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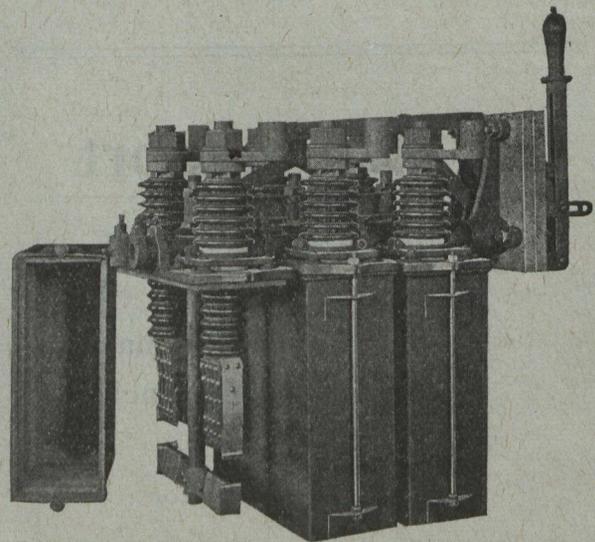
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