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“A Civic Improvement League for Canada”

VOLUME XI.

DECEMBER, 1915

No. 12

OFFICIAL ORGAN
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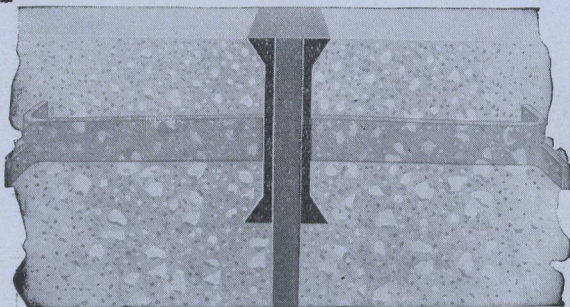
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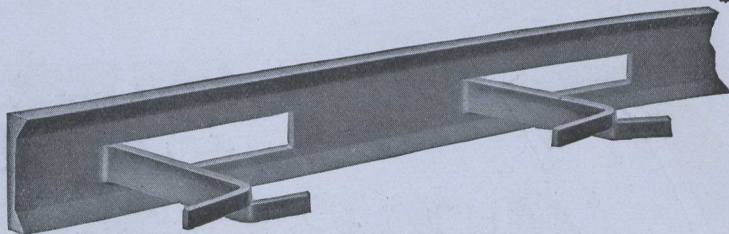
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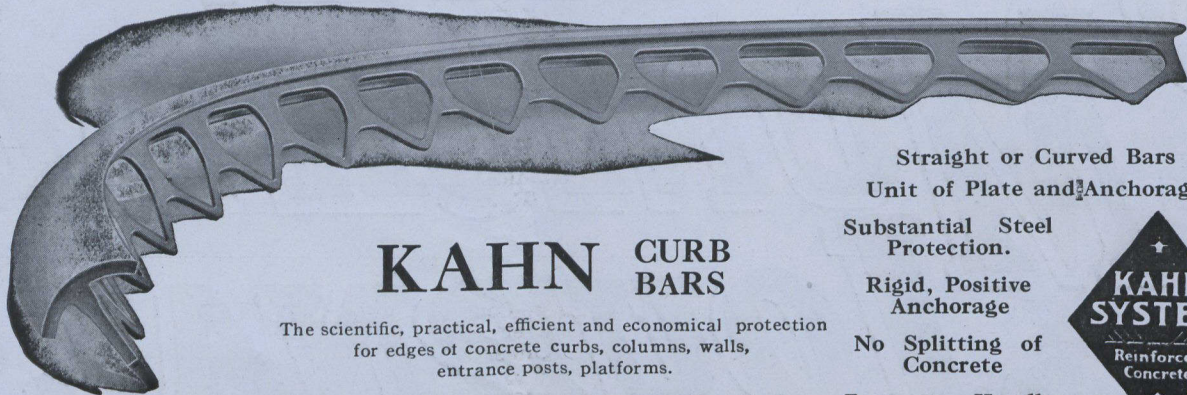


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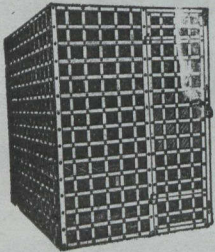
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Fire Alarm Service of Montreal

The City of Montreal has just completed the installation of an underground system for fire alarm service on St. Catherine and Bleury Streets.

Before the specifications were drawn up covering this system, the matter was given considerable study, and the experience and success which other cities had had in connection with underground fire alarm signal circuits was thoroughly investigated. The result is that Montreal has, without a doubt, the finest fire alarm underground installation on the North American Continent.

When the specifications were drawn up it was decided, in order to make the system as efficient as possible, and to provide for future growth of the City of Montreal, that it would be necessary to run two cables on St. Catherine Street, east and west from Fire Alarm Headquarters, which would be known as feeder cables. These feeder cables were so arranged that the boxes to be fed by them would be alternate on the cables, i.e., feeder No. 1 would feed the first box, feeder No. 2 the second box, feeder No. 1 would feed the third box, and feeder No. 2 would feed the fourth box, and so on. In addition to these feeder cables, there was installed a trunk cable running east and west from Fire Alarm Headquarters on St. Catherine Street. It is proposed that this trunk cable will feed the outlying districts of Montreal on the eastern and western sides. On Bleury Street the installation was practically the same, except that there was but one trunk cable running from Fire Alarm Headquarters south, but no trunk cable running from Fire Alarm Headquarters north. The cable used for the main feeders and trunk was of a special design, lead covered, rubber insulated, 20 pair cable, the size of the conductors being No. 16 copper wire.

The boxes installed on this installation are of the latest Positive Non-Interfering Succession Type, which is conceded to be the most efficient type of box known to the art of Fire Alarm Telegraphy.

As is well known, the City of Montreal has numerous private alarm boxes, and it was a debatable question as to how it was best to connect these boxes to the main circuit. It was finally decided to connect to the main cable by means of a 6-conductor special fire alarm cable which would connect to the main feeder cable at the nearest fire alarm box pedestal, thus if anything happened to the private installation it could be immediately cut off the main circuit without interfering with the main circuit in any way. This could not have been done if the main feeder cables had been looped into the private institutions.

For mounting the fire alarm boxes on the streets and to provide cable terminals for the feeder cable, a special metropolitan design post was used, the post supporting the fire alarm box and cable terminal box on the back of it. The cables are all "looped in," no taps being made in the entire installation. It was decided that as the installation was to be all underground, and telephoning over the fire alarm circuit would be made possible because of this fact, that all fire alarm boxes should be equipped with a telephone jack and special equipment for telephone signalling, so that the



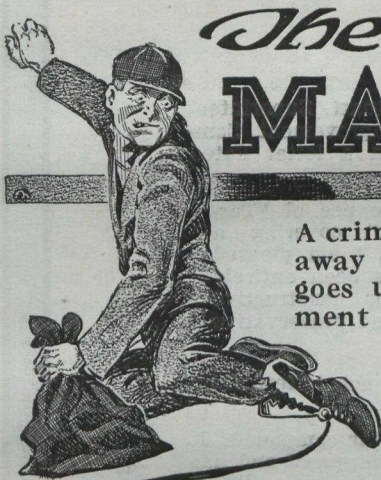
trouble man, box inspector or fire chief could immediately get telephonic connection with the Fire Alarm Headquarters from any fire alarm box on the circuit, thus saving a great deal of time over the former method of going to the nearest private telephone. It was necessary to instal special telephone receiving apparatus in the Central Office, and the result of this particular part of the installation is a credit to the designer, and will no doubt prove to be an indispensable adjunct to all underground fire alarm systems in the future.

The preparing of specifications and the supervising of the installation of the entire job has been under the direct supervision of the present Acting Superintendent, Mr. L. A. Charest. Mr. Charest has been in the employ of the Fire Alarm Department for thirteen years, starting in as an operator, and owing to his ambitious attention to the work, he has worked his way up to the position of Acting Superintendent.

The cable, telephone equipment, fire alarm boxes and miscellaneous apparatus have been furnished by the Northern Electric Company, Limited, and installed by that company.

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The Westmount News

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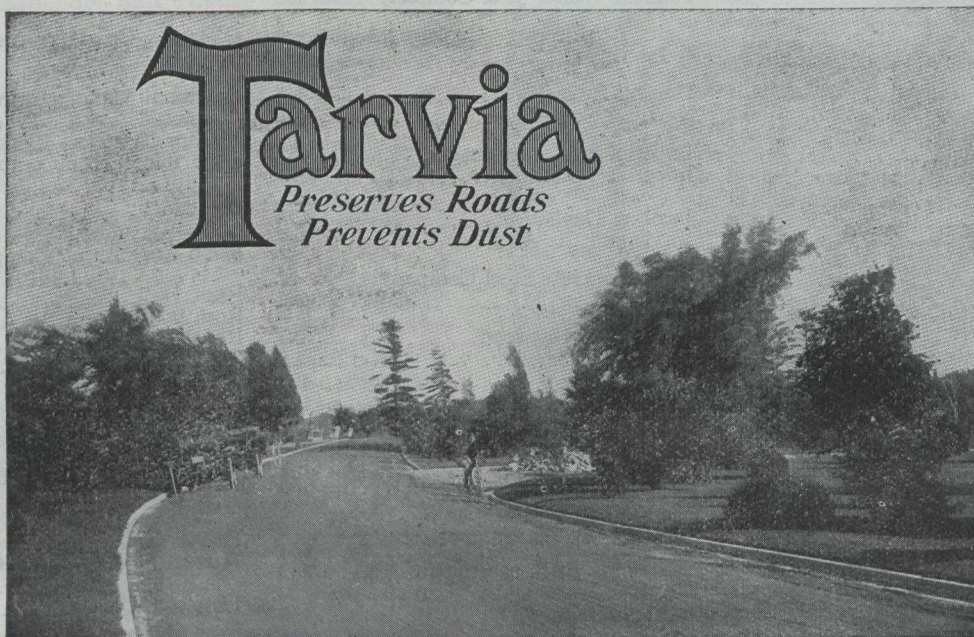
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Vol. XI

DECEMBER, 1915

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The New Civic Improvement League¹

A Civic Improvement organization for the whole of Canada has been inaugurated under the auspices of the Commission of Conservation. Mr. Thomas Adams, the chief mover in the scheme, is to be congratulated in getting together such a representative gathering of men interested in the many phases that make up the body civic of this country. In fact, we hardly realized that there were so many self-sacrificing citizens in Canada. We had begun to think, after a somewhat hard experience, that the old idea of Canadian citizenship was deteriorating—that the civic life was made up of the component parts of the municipal councils, the destructive critic and the spicy tit-bits in the local press. But after experiencing the splendid spirit that seemed to permeate the Ottawa gathering and the speeches, we are convinced that the real citizenship of Canada has only been dormant, and is now awakening.

Mr. W. D. Lighthall, the founder and Hon. Secretary of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, and who for seventeen years has borne the burden, at times alone, of building up a decent civic life, welcomed the new organization as one that would work side by side with the Union; the one dealing with the official side, the other the unofficial side, and this Journal, which has watched Mr. Lighthall's long splendid fight for the rights of the citizens, can only corroborate his sentiments.

From the principal addresses we gather that the great object of the league is to create an intelligent public opinion on all matters of a civic nature—to make better Canadian citizens. This the league is bound to obtain, if the right methods are used, and the programme already mapped out is an indication that such is the determination of those responsible for the movement. The tendency in the past has been

for some local associations (not all), and even some professional bodies to constitute themselves into critics of the local councils, not for the betterment of the municipality but for a cheap advertisement in the newspapers; the fact that the members of the council were at least striving to give an honest administration never being considered. This has become so apparent that the very existence of a civic association however good would seem to indicate to the stranger that municipal affairs in that particular community were anything but what they should be.

To give a concrete instance of the kind of destructive criticism to be condemned, we might refer our readers to the recent discussion between Mayor Waugh of Winnipeg and Judge Robson, of the same city. The latter, in an address before the Winnipeg Board of Trade, sharply criticized the local administration but then the Mayor refuted by facts and figures the insinuations, the Judge at once backed down.

This kind of criticism is a danger to good civic government, and is not wanted in Canada, but what is wanted — and wanted badly — is a constructive policy of civic education, and the society or association that can give it will be doubly welcomed by the people and every right thinking member of a public body. We all want such an education. And we believe that the new league, as outlined in its proposed charter, will give this education. And the best guarantee we have that the charter will be lived up to is the standing of its leaders.

This Journal to help on the work of educating the man in the street to a better understanding of his responsibility as a Canadian citizen, will place its columns and its bureau of information at the disposal of any member of the new league.

A National System of Labor Bureaus

For four years Miss Wileman has been pounding at the door of Canadian common sense to gain admission with her system of national labour bureaus. She has met with many rebuffs, which is strange when we boast of the progressive virility of our people, and when it is considered that the system has been successfully tried out in Great Britain (with 430 exchanges), in Australia, New Zealand, and in France; in fact, in all the progressive countries of the world. The excuse given out at first was that there was no need—everybody was so busy that there would be no work for the bureaus, but this hollow mockery of pretense was extinguished in the memorial of mayors to the government last May, which partially reads as follows:

There are in the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and west of the Great Lakes in Ontario no less than 33,000 unemployed, and conditions in the cities of the older portions of Canada are not much better.

The fact is Canada has no machinery of any kind for the distribution of labour and immigration. We know that some of the provinces have bureaus of a kind, but they are so wrapped up in official red tape as to be effete, and the immigration authorities seem to confine their energies to the placing of farm laborers and domestic servants only, totally ignoring the greater body of immigrants, who are not fitted by their training to go on the land. It is true that the authorities have not encouraged this class of immigrants, but we have to remember that the industrial worker is with us because of Canada—right or wrong—determining to become a manufacturing country. And frankly we fail to see that she, considering her vast natural opportunities, has made a mistake in creating industries other than farming. Since the opening out of the country's vast resources and the harnessing of its water powers have laid before the people their great opportunity in the manufacturing field, industrial Canada is even dominating agricultural Canada, and this in face of the slogan that Canada is essentially an agricultural country. It is history repeating itself, for taking the example of the United States or even Great Britain, the basic wealth of which is agriculture, as in Canada, their wonderful growth and progress date from the utilization of their mineral resources, and from that to manufacturing, was but a step. Canada has already reached the manufacturing stage, which though still in its infancy is of sufficient importance to be a large factor in the progress of the country, so that the question of the industrial worker is a very pertinent one. No discouragement on the part of the authorities is going to stop him from coming to Canada, and anything of a penal nature would be suicidal.

But even with the agricultural worker the immigration authorities seemed to have failed, in spite of the assurance of the assistant superintendent of immigration that they can place every agriculturist in a job, as the following extracts taken from the memorial, already mentioned, show—

While we have received a large number of immigrants from Europe, presumably with the object of settling our vast area of unused land, the end anticipated has largely failed, and the man who was a farmer in Europe and came to us to farm, has become a city dweller and a consumer. . . . That 25,000 of the unemployed (33,000) in the west-

ern section of the country are immigrants of the agricultural countries of Europe.

That 65 per cent of the immigrants brought into Western Canada by the Dominion Government during the last three years have not taken up land.

That the Province of Saskatchewan during the three years 1912 to 1914 inclusive, received 51,041 immigrants from the agricultural countries of Europe and during the same period only 16,310 homesteads were taken by peoples of these nationalities.

A careful survey of the unemployed in Winnipeg showed that 70.2 per cent of the destitute citizens of foreign birth of that city were owners of land before their departure for Canada, and that 16.8 per cent were farm laborers, making a total of 87 per cent agriculturalists.

The municipal bureau where it exists, is too limited in its present form for much usefulness, and while we believe the suggested Provincial system of labour exchanges as recommended by the Ontario Commission on Unemployment will be a step in the direction of solving the problem of unemployment, as far as the Province of Ontario is concerned, the chain will be but short. It seems to us that the time has come for Canada to open the door to the opportunity afforded by Miss Wileman and her scheme. At least let us test her wares. As we understand it, the scheme in short is that a labour Bureau be placed in every community throughout the Dominion with a central bureau at Ottawa, under the care of a Commission of about three, with executive powers like the present Railway Commission and which in reality will be the clearing and training house for the Dominion, and that as far as possible the present machinery of the municipalities be used. The expenses to be borne by and under the control of the Federal Government. The scheme would seem to be in keeping with the following recommendation of the mayors memorial.

That the Government establish a system of industrial exchanges throughout the country whereby men can be assisted in moving from a locality where no demand for labor exists to one where some means of employment may be obtained.

The strength of the idea to our mind is in its simplicity and its commonsense. We recognize that the suggested bureau will not create employment, but it will eliminate for all time, (because there will be no charge), those hold-ups, termed employment agencies, which are located usually in the foreign quarter of Canada's principal cities, and which make a practice of bleeding the immigrant of his last dollar. The chain system is especially valuable in a country of long distances, where employment is always a serious problem to the man belonging to a specialized and consequently limited trade. A very important point claimed in favour of a national labour bureau is the comparative ease with which the employable and unemployable are separated, to the benefit of the one and the detriment of the other.

Canada by her immigration policy of the last fifteen years was supposed to assume the responsibility of caring for her immigrants. This, we have shown, she has failed to do, as the dumping of the majority of them in the cities denote. This will be enhanced ten-fold after the war. How are the authorities going to solve the problem? The National Labour Bureau can at least be tried,

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES.

In electing Dr. Costello, Mayor of Calgary, to the presidency for the coming year, the Union of Alberta Municipalities have secured one of the best municipal men in the country. Essentially Western in his sympathies, he is yet broad enough to appreciate the difficulties of the East, and it is only men of this calibre that are wanted in the building up of the larger municipal life of Canada. Mayor Costello is second Vice-President of the Union of Canadian Municipalities.

CANADIAN PATRIOTIC FUND.

On another page we publish a letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Patriotic Fund, and a list of cities, whose Councils have subscribed out of city funds to the Patriotic Fund. We would like to have seen more names, for, in spite of hard times municipally, we do not believe that the ratepayers of any municipality would object to a generous contribution in their name. To this splendid fund last year about \$5,000,000 was collected, and for the coming year at least \$7,500,000 must be raised if the families of those fine fellows who have gone, or are going, to the front are to receive sufficient to keep them in anything like comfort. We understand too, that the generous private subscriptions of last year will not be so large again, meaning that public bodies must come to the rescue.

EX-MAYOR GRAHAM AIDS RECRUITING.

Ex-Mayor Graham, of London, and a past president of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, is doing splendid recruiting work in his district. Since the war commenced, Mr. Graham has addressed 150 meetings—many of which he organized as well—with tangible results. The Minister of Militia has offered him the command of a new regi-

ment, which he asked the ex-Mayor to raise. This offer has been accepted and we congratulate Lieut-Col. Graham on his promotion.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis has again sent out its annual record of work well done in the elimination of that scourge of consumption, which, if such an association did not exist, would make terrible headway in our midst. Last year we urged the Municipal Councils to take a keener interest in the movement, and the following extract, shows that as far as British Columbia is concerned, the municipalities have made a good start. In our opinion tuberculosis is largely the outcome of conditions that should be preventable, and it is because the public authorities have not taken the proper precautions in the past to eradicate the chief causes of the insidious disease, that they should let no opportunity pass to help on the splendid work of this purely voluntary society.

The excerpt reads as follows:

"At our last annual meeting it was suggested that we should appeal to the various municipalities and cities. It was felt that the Government had given generously and that, if appealed to, the municipalities would doubtless come to our assistance. With this end in view an appeal was made last October to every municipality and city in the Province some sixty-one in number, with the following result: The cities of Cranbrook, Kelowna, Merritt, Prince Rupert, Rossland, Vernon, Victoria and Vancouver, and the municipalities of Langley, South Vancouver, Kent, Coldstream, Penticton and North Vancouver, fourteen in all promised donations amounting to \$1,769.25, of which \$963.00 has been received to date, eleven councils promised to give the question further consideration and held the matter in abeyance, seventeen replied that they were unable to contribute, and from nineteen no replies were received. There is no question that the response from the municipalities would have been much larger had the financial conditions in our Province been much better, as all replies showed that the councils were in sympathy with our work."

Civic Improvement League & Union of Canadian Municipalities

COMMISSION OF CONSERVATION.
Ottawa, Nov. 22, 1915.

To the Editor,

In view of the excellent work which is done by the Union of Canadian Municipalities and its provincial branches, and also in view of the important and necessary place it fills in municipal life in Canada, I trust the impression will not go abroad that the proposed Civic Improvement League will in any way conflict with that organization. On the contrary, I hope it will be seen by everyone who is interested in civic affairs that a voluntary organization of citizens is needed to supplement the work of the Union and to co-operate with them in general civic improvement. The Union and its branches consist of men who are officially identified with municipal government, and is necessarily restricted in its membership. The proposed Civic Improvement League will have no restrictions on its membership and the majority of its members are unlikely to have any official connection with municipal bodies. As stated in the objects of the League, it is intended to promote the study and advancement of the best principles and methods, and to secure a general and effective interest in all municipal affairs. This means that its function will be primarily one of education, and that it is the general body of the citizens and not merely those in public life which it is sought to educate. That is work which is somewhat outside the scope of a body like the Union of Canadian Municipalities, but it is also work which that Union must desire to see performed, as the more the general body of the citizens understand civic affairs the more helpful they will be to those who are

engaged in carrying on public work in the right way. Thus the League will be complementary to the Union, and it will be very desirable that the two should co-operate with one another so as to secure the most effective results. In my statement to the Conference on the 19th inst., I said: "We need not overlap with the work of such an excellent institution as the Union of Canadian Municipalities necessarily restricted in its membership to those who compose Municipal Councils, but we may do much by co-operation with such an institution in advancing objects in which we have a common interest."

I think this remark requires emphasis in view of a possible misunderstanding. The work which the Union of Canadian Municipalities is doing cannot be done by any other body, and it would be a deplorable thing if its usefulness were to be impaired by any opposition. I am sure, therefore, that I am speaking for others who are identified with the new League, and certainly for myself, when I say that our desire is to join forces with the Union and to render them any assistance we can in improving municipal government in Canada.

If it is to be a success, I think the League will have to co-operate with existing municipal bodies as well as with the Union, and it must seek to inspire members of local authorities with confidence in its method. It is hoped, therefore, that those who have had experience as members of local authorities will co-operate with the League in the studies and investigations which it undertakes, and that it will be looked upon as an entirely impartial body, seeking only to promote the public welfare. I am, Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

THOMAS ADAMS, Town Planning Adviser.

Civic Improvement League for Canada

"THAT A CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE FOR CANADA BE FORMED WITH THE OBJECT OF PROMOTING THE STUDY AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE BEST PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF CIVIC IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, TO ENCOURAGE AND ORGANIZE IN EACH COMMUNITY THOSE SOCIAL FORCES WHICH MAKE FOR EFFICIENT CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP AND TO SECURE A GENERAL AND EFFECTIVE INTEREST IN ALL MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS."

The launching of a civic improvement for Canada at the instance of the Commission of Conservation was attended with all the eclat that its promoters could wish. Practically every civic organization was represented at the preliminary conference which was held at Ottawa, Nov. 19, in the offices of the Commission, and the speeches were all noticeable by their unanimity for a common cause—the improvement of the civic life of the Dominion. The outcome of the conference was the election of a provisional committee to prepare a draft constitution and to take steps to promote a National Conference to be held in January. The exact date and place is yet to be decided.

Sir Clifford Sifton in addressing the members, said the function of the Conservation Commission was rather to start things than to do things; to investigate and secure the co-operation of other bodies. The Commission had done much in the past particularly in the conservation of forests, and the prevention of fires on the railroads. But it had got to the point when it was felt necessary to inaugurate a new era of town planning, and it sent for Mr. Thomas Adams. "We have never regretted sending for Mr. Adams," said Sir Clifford.

In connection with municipal work in Canada, Sir Clifford said it was incorrect to say that it had been a failure. It had been a partial failure. The system of municipal government in the Dominion did not operate well in large municipalities. He did not think it would ever be effectively applied to cities if it depended on the individual judgment of electors in voting for councillors and aldermen. Sir Clifford said he had voted in municipal elections in Ottawa for the past 15 years and he could not conceive anything less intelligent than voting as he had done. He did not know why. How, therefore, could the working people intelligently direct civic development. The remedy would be found in men such as they who were attending the conference in forming plans for civic improvement and then getting them applied somewhere.

Education Methods Criticized.

Canada suffered from haphazard methods and a lack of efficiency. Nothing had done so much harm to Canada as the system of education. Young men are receiving education which fitted them for lawyers or professional men and nothing else. It had affected the whole development of Canada. Some improvement ought to be made.

"We have the whole history of the world to look back upon," said Sir Clifford. "Can't we do it in a better way? Can't we do it in such a way that the poor will not grow poorer and the rich more luxury-loving and callous to the needs of the people?" They were failing to get at the problem which makes slums. They had not yet got to realize the value of land.

Land Valuation.

Land values, Sir Clifford characterized as extortionate and absurd, and attributed the existent congestion in city slums to the fact that the workingman had to pay out at least the savings of ten years to purchase land near enough to a city on which to build a home.

"We have not yet realized the real value of land," he said. "How can we have happy, contented people, when the price for a few feet of land is more than a working man could save in ten years."

Much of the present day unemployment, he attributed to the frenzied rush of Canadian municipalities to obtain industries. "I don't care whether you raise the tariff 5 per cent, or lower it correspondingly," said he, "it won't make a particle of difference to unemployment. Canadian municipalities had been allowed to get new industries by any means, and, had done so without counting the cost. They secure a few orders," Sir Clifford concluded, "get their factories, and bring in men to work them. Then the slump comes, and the men go out on the streets. Three months of this and they are unfit for work."

"The things I have mentioned are the things worth while. If we want a happier, higher and nobler Canada, these are the things we want to solve."

Real Test of Civilization.

Sir John Willison, chairman of the conference, said the real test of civilization, he would imagine, was the condition of the average man. It ought to be the business of all of them to look after the men at the bottom. They should see that fewer were at the bottom, and that comfort and happiness were greater, because comfort and happiness means better citizenship. He believed civic government was honest in Ontario, but it was also comparatively feeble. Our councils did not learn as well as they should learn how to use voluntary associations. There was a feeling that the latter infringed upon the prerogative of councillors. The wise councillors were those who will use voluntary association to the best advantage. All services in the public interest should be utilized. He did not think that all the municipal failures were confined to the cities. He said it was something to think about when they saw how cheaply the villages of Canada could be made beautiful and how ragged and unkempt they were. Some source of inspiration was needed.

In many of the country municipalities there were 5 or 6 acres of fair grounds open for only two or three days of the year. They should be opened to the people for civic playgrounds. They had the examples of the United States and the old world before them and if they fail to benefit by those teachings, and fail to produce a better civilization and a happier people, they would fail in their purpose.

Thomas Adams.

The proposal to form a Civic Improvement League was a first step in accomplishing the task of betterment. "Our objects must be wide enough to cover all phases of civic improvement and development," said Mr. Adams, "whether in city, town or village. We must proceed on lines that will involve the interest of the people and inspire our provincial and civic rulers with confidence. It seems likely that no existing league or society which has been formed in Canada will withhold co-operation in forming this Dominion League. They all heartily endorse the proposal."

The full text of Mr. Adams' address appears on Page 434.

Mr. W. D. Lighthall, K.C., the Hon. Secretary of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, in endorsing the formation of a civic improvement league for the Dominion, pointed out the necessity of some such non-official association—to work in harmony with the one he represented, which was confined to members of the municipal councils. The work of such a league in educating the people in civic affairs and in forming public opinion would be invaluable.

Douglas Nelles, of Ottawa, in the discussion that followed, spoke of the importance of adequate surveys.

Mrs. Adam Shortt, Ottawa, said the National Council of Women had done much for civic improvement in Canada. She deplored the existence of politics in almost all municipal councils. She hailed with joy the formation of the Civic Improvement League because such an organization stood for health, efficiency and beauty.

Prof. Johnson, Toronto University; Mr. A. G. Parker, Bank of Montreal, Ottawa, who specially represented Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, and whose letter appears in our financial columns; Rev. Frank Baldwin, Dr. W. H. Atherton (Sec. of Montreal City Improvement League), and Mr. Frank Beer, Toronto Housing Co., heartily supported its formation.

Mr. Beer said in part:

Movements of an unprecedented character are showing us the necessity for greater national and individual efficiency. The perversion by a great nation of its ideals should not blind us to the advantages of scientific organization, collective effort and a measure of central control.

If we leave effective organization for the forces that hinder progress we are guilty of social treason—and we admit our inability and unworthiness to mould the future development of Canada towards the fulfillment of a great national progress.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE.—Continued.

Social progress has in many cases been obstructed, not alone or chiefly by general indifference but by the lack of clear thinking and definite purpose on the part of social leaders. We must not blame either governments or peoples for their failures to accept all the "solutions" which we have thrust upon them. Part of the blameworthiness has been ours because of our failure to study adequately the problems with which we are concerned. National problems can find no solution in superficial thinking. We must work our heads more and our hearts less. It is because of our recognition of the necessity for wise leadership, deeper study and effective organization that we are here to-day. No movement in Canada, as far as my knowledge goes, has been launched with such reasonable prospects of success. It has never before been my pleasure at a meeting of this character to listen to three such inspiring addresses as we have heard this morning from Sir Clifford Sifton, Sir John Willison, and Mr. Thomas Adams.

The reason we all feel this way, as I am sure we do, is because of the clear thinking and definite purpose, which characterized to an unusual degree those addresses. We have a definite objective, and by the action of the Commission of Conservation in securing the services of Mr. Thomas Adams we have a leadership which simply cannot fail to secure decisive results.

The economic and social problems which will face us at the close of the war call for the serious consideration and well informed study now. Problems of this character will find no solution if we postpone action until they are thrust upon us for immediate action. Failure to recognize this may result in consequences of a far-reaching character. The plan we have before us shows a realization of facts and a study of conditions which gives us great confidence in the successful outcome of the enterprise upon which we are now entering. Experience has convinced us that a national organization is necessary—is indeed indispensable—to the success of the objects we have in view.

I had the honour upon the invitation of Sir Clifford Sifton, of advocating this course before the Commission of Conservation two years ago. The events of these two years have made more apparent and more urgent the desirability of concerted Municipal, Provincial and Dominion action. The problems are great national problems and party or other considerations. It is fortunate for us, as I hope it will be for Canada, that the Commission of Conservation has provided an opportunity to unite local and provincial forces for the achievement of a great and worthy national purpose.

Mr. Beer then moved the resolution for the formation of the league, as stated at the head of this report. It was seconded by Dr. Desaulniers, of Quebec, and supported by Controller Morris, Hamilton, and Mr. Sanford Evans, ex-Mayor of Winnipeg, and was carried unanimously.

Dr. Desaulniers said in part:

To deal properly with such an important subject as civic improvement, with all the duties inherent to such a league, the functions and work that devolve on all devoted members and the wonderful results that can be obtained by continuous efforts, is a task, I say, that I cannot fulfil just at present with skill and in a manner equal to the standard of the distinguished gathering listening to me.

I highly appreciate the fact of having been selected to speak on this resolution, as much as I appreciate having been included in the list of citizens of Quebec to attend the preliminary conference of the founders of this useful League.

In seconding the resolution just read, I want to say that I fully understand, I believe, the real sense of the resolution. And it embraces the study of the best principles in the honest management and administration of civic affairs. The advancement of economical and progressive methods in the improvement and development of our towns and rural municipalities, and also the wakening up of the people so as to secure from all a general and effective interest in all municipal affairs.

Of course, the discussion is limited to-day to a civic point of view only, but allow me to say that the successful achievement of the work undertaken by the League, if well directed, would, as a consequence, bring good results in higher and broader spheres of action. The development of a good civic spirit means also the creation of high national ideals.

There is no doubt that the Federal League, as well as the Local Leagues, will attain the object for which they are created if the members will all co-operate in the necessary initiative, and in an active campaign. Farmers, business and professional men all are, in this country, ambitious—and being desirous to improve their condition, they will at once understand the necessity and the importance of the League when the objects are explained to them, as defined in the circular in "Conservation of Life."

As I said before, our population is open to conviction, and all are desirous to learn, but, I am sorry to say, only a percentage of our people possess the real knowledge and the true principles of civics. There is a lack of education among the masses throughout Canada.

How many times, during my twenty years of public life, have I heard men of all classes making the statements that the only objects in filling public offices of any kind, and the idea—and even ideal—are of a speculative and personal nature? In my humble opinion, the most important duty of the members of the League would be under the title of the study of the best principles in the honest management and administration of public affairs, to start a campaign of education in all the different classes of the community, and so to develop the sense of responsibility and honesty in civic affairs—to create the sentiment in every citizen that public affairs must be managed in the interest of the community, and not from a personal point of view.

Allow me to say that such education should not be spread only to the present generation, but in our universities and colleges, and even in academies, lectures on, and explanations of the duties of citizenship, and the interest they should take in public affairs, should be taught to inculcate sound principles in every future man and woman in the country.

Mr. Sanford Evans appealed for more consideration of the members of the municipal councils, who, he said, were giving so much of their time for the benefit of their respective municipalities. He urged the inculcation of a better conception of citizenship amongst the young people, particularly in the East. "Young men come out West from the East with their minds imbued with the idea that urban life can only mean city life, so that wherever they locate their great ambition is not to beautify the village or town life, but to build and build cities." If the village life was made more social and real the young people would not flood the cities.

The session adjourned to enable the members to partake the hospitality of Sir Clifford Sifton at lunch at the Rideau Club.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At the afternoon session Hon. Dr. J. J. Guerin, ex-Mayor of Montreal, was in the chair. In his introductory remarks, Dr. Guerin said the whole tendency of the movement was to improve the homes of the citizens and consequently the municipalities. When the people were satisfied and comfortable in their surroundings, they would have good loyal citizens of Canada, and consequently the efforts of the Civic Improvement League would be towards the creation of loyalty and contentment among the citizens of this country.

The name "The Civic Improvement League of Canada," was adopted.

The following resolution was then put:

"That a Dominion Council of the League be formed representative of the nine provinces of Canada, and that steps be taken by such council to secure the formation of branches of the League in each city, town, municipality in the Dominion, or the affiliation with the League of existing local civic improvement leagues, board of trade committees or other bodies interested in civic affairs."

The resolution was adopted.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE.—Continued.

Next considered was the resolution of Mr. W. D. Lighthall, "that the question of provincial organization be deferred pending the formation and grouping of local leagues in each province." This was agreed to.

Alderman S. Morley Wickett, of Toronto, in submitting the objects of the League, strongly urged their adoption, for they must base their work on public opinion:

The proposal was as follows:

To assist in promoting the highest interests of the city of..... and the welfare of its citizens by the study and advancement of the best principles and methods of civic improvement and development, and by securing a general and effective public interest in all municipal affairs, with special regard to such questions as the following:

(1) The form and character of local government and the application of sound economic principles in regard to the administration of municipal business.

(2) The preparation of town planning schemes for the purpose of securing proper sanitary conditions, conveniences and amenity in connection with the development of land within and surrounding the area of the city.

(3) The replanning of old districts, the removal of slum areas, the widening of public thoroughfares, and other reconstruction schemes.

(4) The conservation of the industrial and physical resources of the city, with special regard to the housing conditions and health of its citizens and the adequacy and efficiency of its public services.

(5) The preservation and increase of natural and structural beauty, the character and position of public monuments, the laying out of parks and open spaces, the planting and preservation of trees, the regulation of public advertising, and the abatement of smoke and other nuisances.

(6) The preparation of civic surveys and maps, and the carrying out of investigations into housing, transportation and industrial conditions, methods of land valuation and assessment, etc.

(7) The promotion of school and college courses in civics and civic design, of exhibitions of works of art and of architectural engineering and other designs relating to civic improvements, and of public performances of music; and the provision of facilities for the recreation and physical development of the young.

(8) The means of securing increased production from the soil within and in the neighborhood of the city by encouraging the cultivation of idle suburban land and a more widespread interest in gardening.

The above objects were adopted.

Need of Statistics.

Mr. C. A. Magrath, of Ottawa, wanted to know if there were any statistics available regarding the work that has been carried on last year in different cities to meet want and distress. He thought this should receive consideration.

This was answered by Mr. Frederick Wright, of this Journal, who stated that the Union of Canadian Municipalities have sent out enquiries to every municipality asking for information in regard to local unemployment, with good results. He also stated that the Union had tried to bring about a round table conference on the employment problem, but had failed for want of the proper support. He recommended the studying of the interim report of the Ontario Commission on Unemployment, of which Sir John Willison was chairman.

Mr. Noulan Cauchon, of Ottawa, asked if any provision had been made for a definite policy of land tenure and taxation. He submitted the following resolution to be brought before the provisional committee:

"That the committee consider the urging through united effort of legislation to secure such system of land tenure and taxation of land values as would best insure sufficient land for the housing of the people in keeping with their sanitary and economic necessities."

Provisional Committee.

A provisional committee composed of all those who were in attendance at the meeting was next appointed. Sir John Willison was made chairman and Mr. F. Pauze vice-chairman. The list include the following:

Dr. Frank D. Adams, (Commission of Conservation); Thomas Adams (Commission of Conservation); Rev. J. L. Alexander, (Alberta Town Planning Assn.); W. S. B. Armstrong, (Toronto Housing Company); Dr. Wm. H. Atherton, (Montreal Civic Improvement League); Rev. Frank D. Baldwin, (General Conference Statistician, Me-

thodist Church); G. Frank Beer, (Toronto Housing Company); G. F. Benson, (President, Montreal Board of Trade); Dr. H. L. Brittain, (Bureau of Municipal Research); H. Bragg, (St. Lambert Board of Trade); Dr. P. H. Bryce, (Canadian Public Health Assn.); A. W. Campbell, Ottawa; Noulan Cauchon, Ottawa; E. P. Coleman (Board of Trade, Hamilton); G. C. R. Conway, (Chairman, Vancouver Civic Center Committee); W. H. Dandurand, (Montreal Civic Improvement League); Frank Darling, F.R.I.B.A., (Ottawa Federal Plan Commission); Dr. E. M. Desaulniers, (M.P.P., Quebec); W. J. A. Donald, (McMaster University); J. U. Emard, K.C., (Montreal Civic Improvement League); W. Sandford Evans, (Ottawa and Winnipeg); John Firstbrook, (Toronto Board of Trade); Hon. Sydney Fisher, (Commission of Conservation); Controller H. Fisher, (Ottawa); J. J. Fitzgerald, (Sherbrooke Board of Trade); J. L. Garland, (President, Board of Trade, Ottawa); C. H. Gould, (Montreal Civic Improvement League); Hon. J. J. Guerin (Montreal Civic Improvement League); J. P. Hynes, (Bureau of Municipal Research); J. J. Kelso, (Association of Children's Aid Societies, Toronto); W. D. Lighthall, K.C., (Union of Canadian Municipalities); J. J. MacKay, (Sec., Town Planning Commission, Hamilton); Dr. Helen McMurphy, Toronto; Mr. A. A. Magrath, Ottawa; W. A. McLean, (Commissioner of Highways, Ontario); Controller Morris (Town Planning Commission, Hamilton); Douglas H. Nelles, Ottawa; F. Pauze, (President, Montreal Chambre de Commerce, vice-chairman); A. G. Parker, (Bank of Montreal, Ottawa); George Phelps, Toronto; Rev. W. H. M. Quartermaine, Renfrew; Joseph Race, Ottawa; Dr. J. W. Robertson, Ottawa; Professor Adam Shortt, Ottawa; Mrs. Adam Shortt, Ottawa; Sir Clifford Sifton, Ottawa; Louis Simpson, Ottawa; Bryce M. Stewart, Ottawa; Mayor Walters, (Town Planning Commission, Hamilton); Dr. S. Morley Wickett, (Bureau of Municipal Research; Septimus Warwick, F.R.I.B.A., Montreal; James White, (Commission of Conservation); R. B. Whyte, (Ontario Horticultural Society); Sir John Willison, (Chairman, Ontario Unemployment Commission); J. L. Woodsworth, (Canadian Welfare League); Frederick Wright, (Municipal Journal, Montreal); R. O. Wynne-Roberts, Toronto; J. S. Watters (Pres. Trade and Labour Council).

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS.

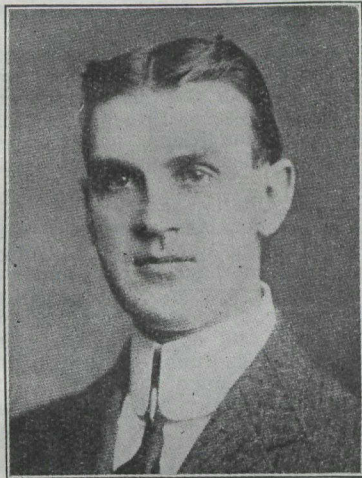
In many cities and towns a great deal has been done to provide facilities for recreation in recent years, and there are many active playground associations which are doing admirable work. There is need, however, for more concerted action, and for an exchange of views regarding experiences in different places. In some cases local action is confined to setting aside open spaces, without any attempt to provide them with the furnishings that are needed to make them real playgrounds. No proper system of parks and playgrounds can be devised and carried out under any scheme which is not part of a comprehensive town planning scheme for a city or town, and there is room for more co-operation between local councils and organizations interested in providing facilities for recreation.

CONSERVING SMALL GARDENS.

Professor Seligman of Columbia University, in his address before the National Housing Conference at Minneapolis, urged as one reason against the untaxing of buildings that the shifting of the tax from the building to the land would tend to the building of skyscrapers for tenements and to the destroying of home gardens in the suburbs of large cities. This thought has been expressed by others who have feared that the taxing of vacant and improved land alike would tend to cover all land with buildings, to the exclusion of sufficient light and air. Professor Seligman admits that such a tax would lower the price of land; the taking of the whole land value would leave merely a nominal selling price. Why, then, as the land grows cheaper, should we expect people to use less of it? The tax of vacant and improved land alike will tend to put it to use, but use does not mean covering it with buildings to the exclusion of light and air, or, in suburbs, of gardens. The more buildings put up, the greater will be the competition for tenants; and landlords with the commercial instinct will provide light and air as an attraction for their buildings. For the same reason the builders of suburban homes will allot ground for garden and chickens.—The Public.

A Garden Club in Hamilton

MAYOR CHESTER WALTERS.



Last year the citizens of Hamilton became impressed with the importance and the patriotism of a production campaign that was about to be launched, and at the suggestion of the city clerk, Mr. S. H. Kent, a Garden Club was formed for the purpose of placing at the disposal of working men the vacant lots within the city limits and at the outskirts of the city for the purpose of cultivation. The first thing we did was to organize a club, and a number of prominent citizens were induced to become associated with

it. A small membership fee was fixed. We found at the outset that it was necessary to have associated with the club a man of practical experience, though in a movement of this kind the object is not so much to make money. If a municipality can get through with a campaign such as we conducted and not spend very much money, they are to be congratulated.

The response that was met with from the owners of vacant land was very gratifying, and I think about 1,500 vacant lots, having an area of about 200 acres, were placed at the disposal of the club. In addition to the vacant lots that were offered to the City of Hamilton, the Parks Board had a park of twenty-two acres that had not yet been developed, although considerable work had been done on it, and the members of the Parks Board placed this at the disposal of the Garden Club. A number of meetings were held while the snow was still on the ground and the response that we met with from the men of the newer section of the city was very gratifying.

Centralize the Lots.

We made one mistake—we did not centralize. We accepted the offers of all the vacant lots and then we proceeded to apportion them to the applicants in whatever part of the city they desired, and we found later on that when we sent the men to plough these lots, unless we sent someone from the engineer's department to stake them out, there was a lot of confusion, and it was a matter of time and expense to send the ploughmen from one section to the other.

The advantage to be gained from centralizing the lots are: first, that it is easier to supervise the work; it is cheaper to plough the ground and to work it; it avoids a lot of confusion and sometimes ploughing the wrong lot. And what is very important, you get the men working together; you get them and their families working side by side, and a sort of friendly rivalry springs up. Then, in addition to that, there is always the danger of the potatoes and vegetables being stolen just about the time that they are nearly ripe. So that in getting the lots together and in forming a sort of community there are generally a number of lot owners or the members of the club working there, and it is a protection. And in addition to that, of course, you are able to give it a certain amount of police supervision.

The results of the operations were very gratifying. We had very little complaint because of people trespassing on the lots, and I have not heard of anyone stealing or destroying the property, and of the 225 members who joined the club, only one lot was allowed to be neglected. In all, over 5,000 bushels of potatoes were gathered from these lots. And during the summer time it was gratifying to see the mechanics and sometimes their wives and boys and girls out working in these lots.

While possibly the monetary return that they have received from the value of the vegetables would not, if they figured up their time at a rate per hour, repay them for all their effort,—every member of the Garden Club has

been well satisfied with his or her effort. A number of children cultivated lots, and I remember one little fellow aged ten bringing up to the city clerk's office a basket of potatoes. This little chap came up and one of the prominent citizens presented him with five dollars in gold, as he was the first boy to raise a basket of potatoes in connection with the Garden Club.

The Great Lesson of the Movement.

The practical results we found were increased production, the assisting of the unemployed, and the benefit that comes to any man from working in his spare time and helping to make himself independent instead of lying around in an indolent manner and in the winter time be forced to seek assistance.

The great lessons that the garden movement taught us in Hamilton were:—

First, the patriotism and production campaign that was commenced and prosecuted so vigorously should be continued both by the Dominion and Provincial Governments and the municipalities.

Second, in view of the fact that every year we have so much unemployment, municipalities would do well, if the land can be had at a low enough figure, to secure permanent privileges on some suitable plot of ground that can be allotted to people desirous of working it. This garden plot scheme that has worked out successfully in the City of Hamilton only had a deficit of about \$75 over and above the amount of money raised by way of fees, donations, etc., with 224 mechanics and their families working the lots. When it is considered that we assisted in purchasing the seed and supervised the purchasing of the seed and helped to furnish implements and did the plowing ourselves, and when it is borne in mind the fact that the men and women raised over 5,000 bushels of potatoes, as well as other vegetables—and would have raised perhaps thousands more had the weather been more favorable—I think that municipalities would do well to consider engaging upon some permanent garden plot scheme. Perhaps the scheme can be extended by the Provincial Governments for the returning soldiers. Unfortunately, Canadians do not seem to take to gardening, and it is a great misfortune. It is a misfortune that the old type of pioneers is dying out, but I believe by encouraging the garden club and cultivation of town lots, that you will get the mechanics and artisans to take a greater interest in gardening, and in this way you will induce them not only to apply for and cultivate these vacant lots, but they will go into back yard farming, and will certainly be better off from a health as well as from a financial standpoint.

THE VALUE OF NATIONAL LABOUR BUREAU IN SOUTH AFRICA.

"Throughout August, there was much unsettlement of the labour market of the Cape Peninsula, according to the report of the Labour Bureau. The disorganization caused by the return of the Defence Force and the enlistment of recruits for the Oversea Contingent was not so serious as might have been anticipated. In some trades, notably engineering, there was an actual shortage of some classes of skilled workers, and several men were brought from other centres to fill local vacancies."

CENSUS OF AUSTRALIA.

The last census in Australia showed that 96.97 per cent of the total population had been born either in Australasia or the United Kingdom. In fifty years 27 per cent of the increased population of the Commonwealth was due to gain by immigration, and 72 per cent to "natural increase."

A MAYORAL REGALIA.

The Lord Mayor of London has four swords, which form part of the Mansion House regalia. There is the sword of Justice, the sword of State, the black sword, and the pearl sword. When the Lord Mayor attends the Central Criminal Court on the opening day of each session the "sword of Justice" is placed behind him. The "sword of State" is borne in front of the Lord Mayor as an emblem of his authority, the "black sword" being used during Lent and on the death of any member of the Royal Family; while the "pearl sword"—presented by Queen Elizabeth—is carried before him on all great State occasions.

Objects and Scope of Civic Improvement League of Canada

BY THOMAS ADAMS.

Rapid Growth of Urban Populations.

The rapid growth of urban populations and the relatively stationary character of rural populations has been a cause of anxiety in older countries for more than a generation and in Canada we have gradually been made to realize its seriousness for the last twenty years. In 1911, out of a total population of 7,206,643, there were 3,280,964 or 45½ per cent living in cities and towns in the Dominion. It is certain that that proportion has increased and is probably now over one-half. Of the 3,280,964 urban inhabitants in 1911—25 per cent were living in two cities (Montreal and Toronto) 7.2 per cent were living in two cities of over 100,000, 14.9 per cent were living in 8 cities of over 25,000, 4.7 per cent in 12 towns over 25,000, 14 p.c. in 11 towns over 15,000, 36 per cent in 453 towns of between 500 and 15,000 and 3 per cent in a large number of villages under 500. Thus half of the urban population in Canada, or one-fourth of the whole, lives in 464 towns having between 500 and 25,000 people. In these 464 towns we have perhaps on the average as healthy conditions as can be found in any country, but, notwithstanding all the advantages we derive from starting well with the development of our towns, we seem to be incapable, when they become larger, of rising to higher standards than in any other country. In Montreal and Toronto we are going on repeating the evils that have long afflicted London, Paris and New York. As these cities have grown in size, and as they have increased in importance and wealth, they have been getting less healthy and even less efficient. This is in spite of the application of higher sanitary and hygienic standards, and all that science and invention has done in the last generation. Notwithstanding all our progress in science, our accumulation of knowledge and experience, our growing recognition of the value of healthy living conditions, we may well ask whether our large cities have made any progress at all in regard to the things that really matter in civic life in the last 50 or 100 years. In our large cities we see the same evils of congestion, waste and inefficiency, the same physical and moral deterioration that you find in the old aggregations of population in Europe, where such conditions are more excusable than with us. But we have only about four cities that have begun to develop slums to any serious extent, whereas we have nearly 500 cities in which we can kill the seed that germinates into the slum if we care to do it. Because the evils of the crowded city are new in Canada we have power to arrest them, but, also because they are new, we are in danger of allowing them to eat into our national life so that the efforts of future generations will be powerless to have them removed.

Control the Growth.

There is no reason why we should try to stop the growth of cities and towns but there is every reason why we should properly control that growth. It is not the fact of growth to which objection may be taken; it is the method and character of growth that is wrong, and that produces the evils of which complaint is made. We cannot prevent large cities from expanding, but we can prevent their expansion in an unhealthy way. We must endeavour to remedy the evils that have been created in the past, but an equally urgent task is to prevent similar evils being created in future. The importance of this is seen in the fact already alluded to that whereas we have only two cities of large size in Canada we have perhaps hundreds of potential cities of large size—in addition to the fact that the cities that are already large are going to be larger.

Recognition of the need for proper control of future growth and greater civic efficiency is calling forth the exercise of the best intelligence to secure civic betterment in every civilized country. In Canada we cannot ignore our responsibilities in that direction. All around us we see systems of administration and development that have become discredited; we see the need of adjusting old forms to suit new conditions, or revising old ideas in the light of experience; of reconstructing our municipal machinery and of relieving the pressure of evils which have been plainly caused by lack of foresight and care. All of these things impress us with the need of watchful vigilance on the part of an organized body of citizens in regard to civic and social development.

In a country having democratic government it is more necessary than in a country under any other form of government to secure a high level of intelligence on the part of the citizens. It is they who rule, and in the measure in which we allow their physique and intelligence to be lowered as a result of their environment in that measure will we lower the quality of our national and civic government. Moreover, even with the best of governments, and the best of measures passed into law, we can make little headway, under our conditions, unless we secure effective administration, which is only possible with an educated public opinion.

Trust Citizens' Intelligence.

To some extent we have to consider systems of civic government, but the more vital matter is the consideration of the right principles and methods of civic improvement and development under any system. The people require guidance and enlightenment on both these matters. We cannot give that guidance and enlightenment effectively by preaching, we must arouse public interest sufficiently by local organization to cause the truth to be sought after by the people themselves. All the expert advice that can be given will be more or less futile unless the people are aroused to an intelligent appreciation of the advantages of the advice that is proffered to them. It is, however, one of the most encouraging features of Canadian life that there is to be found a great mass of citizens keenly awake to the need for improvement, and only lethargic in seeking improvement because they are unable to see clearly how it is to be attained. Study and investigation by some of the best minds in the country is needed to give the lead that is required.

This is not a time to be idle in regard to civic affairs because of the fact that we are at war. To be at war means that we are losing much valuable life and much of our wealth. Therefore, this is a time more than any other to consider how we can conserve both life and wealth. The character of the present war also means that when it is over there will be a tremendous struggle for trade supremacy and for means of recoupment for losses endured. With whatever degree of success we finally emerge from that struggle in Canada will depend very largely on the degree of our civic efficiency, and upon the measure in which a higher phase of industrial civilization may be attained in civic communities.

In using the words "civic" and "citizenship" we should give them the broad meaning of applying to rural as well as to urban communities. For instance, regional planning of our agricultural areas to secure more efficient means of distributing produce, and better facilities for social intercourse, education, etc., is as necessary as what is called town planning. To plan for the future is to apply foresight to the development of our social conditions generally and particularly to all developments relating to the use of the land, and that is needed in the country as much as in the town. The civic improvement league therefore is needed in the village as well as in the city.

Greater Stability in Municipal Finance.

In order to attain effective civic improvement in Canada we must reconsider our system of local government, particularly in regard to the relationship between city and town, on the one hand, and the province, on the other. There should be uniformity of system as far as possible without undue interference with local discretion. Some method must soon be devised to secure greater stability in regard to the finances of our municipal undertakings and more co-operation between adjacent local authorities. We need as a people to discuss these matters as they affect each separate province and each separate city and town, and we have to consider the ever increasing importance of city and town planning and their close relationship to the city government. The costly process of removing slums and reconstructing existing bad development in the larger cities requires investigation. In one English city it cost at the rate of \$8,000,000 per mile to widen a street, and in the same city it will cost at the rate of about \$4 per acre to prepare a town planning scheme which will lay down the principles of development so that future widening of streets would be unnecessary. The relative advantage of reconstruction and town planning schemes needs much study, and we may find that a good deal of the former is unnecessary. Every one realizes how great the need is in Canada to preserve

our industrial and physical resources, and how important it is to prevent the physical deterioration which usually follows industrial concentration in any country.

Preserve the Natural Beauty of the Cities.

Since I have come to Canada I have been astonished to find how splendid are the sites of the cities and towns. For natural beauty the sites of Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Vancouver and scores of other cities must be difficult to surpass anywhere, but in every case there has been lamentable destructiveness to attain no real gain. When will we learn that to preserve natural beauty costs little or nothing, whereas to create it costs large sums of money. That is peculiarly brought home to us when we realize that much of what we do create is a poor imitation of the real beauties our want of care has permitted to be destroyed. Few cities anywhere can have any finer environment than that which is given to Ottawa by Rockcliffe Park. The preservation of that park in its natural condition and of many other features in Canada is a tribute to the intelligence and foresight of our people, but they also provide us with an example of the need of care in hundreds of cases where natural beauty is in danger of being destroyed.

We need better maps of our cities and towns, surveys of our social conditions, investigations into questions relating to good roads, transportation and public utilities and more education of our children in civics and citizenship. A matter of vital concern is the reform of our existing system of developing suburban land with its deplorable effects of putting large areas of productive soil lying nearest our markets out of entire use. We need consideration of our unemployed problem and our emigration problem and their relation to the development of our civic life in town and country. In a country such as Canada, with its vast natural resources, it is a sign of bad management that any money has to be given in charity to relieve conditions of unemployment.

All these matters require public discussion and investigation. There must be expert study and enquiry and some guidance must be given from central authorities and committees, but the local point of view must always be considered, and the organization and education of public opinion is essential.

The proposal to form a Civic Improvement League is a first step in trying to accomplish that task. It is a task of great magnitude and we may not be able to attain ideal results, but even if we do not attain the goal we seek we shall not be unsuccessful if we go forward even a few paces in its direction.

The Objects of a Civic League.

Briefly, then, our objects must be wide enough to cover all phases of civic improvement and development whether in the larger city, the small town, or the village community. We must proceed on the lines that can alone be effective in a democratic country, those which involve securing a sympathetic and critical interest on the part of the people and which result in inspiring our provincial and civic rulers with confidence in our methods and conclusions. We need not overlap with the work of such excellent institutions as the Union of Canadian Municipalities necessarily restricted in its membership to those who compose municipal councils, but we may do much by co-operation with such an institution in advancing objects in which we have a common interest.

It seems likely that no existing League, Society or Committee which has been formed in Canada will withhold their co-operation in forming this Dominion League. They all heartily endorse the proposal. In addition to the support promised in that direction we have received intimation from about 700 individuals in about 400 cities and municipalities in Canada that they will be glad to join and lend support to the movement. With such a beginning at such a time as this, it seems difficult to anticipate anything but great success to the movement we are met to inaugurate, and personally, I feel assured that it has enormous potentialities for the future welfare of Canada.

It may hardly be considered the function of the Commission of Conservation to do more than take a paternal interest in such an organization. Its duty may be limited to deal with those things which have more or less the direct object of conserving national resources, including public health, but that object cannot be adequately and properly attained without proper civic organization and higher civic ideals on the part of the people. It is with the object of promoting that organization and cultivating these ideals that the proposal is made to form a Civic Improvement League for Canada with the scope and objects which I have outlined in a general way.

CIVICS IN OUR SCHOOLS.

During the recent session of the Legislature Premier Scott received a communication from the editor of The Canadian Municipal Journal, requesting that "Civics" be added to the school curriculum in this province. In his reply, Mr. Scott pointed out that Civics had been for some years on the course, and added that in his opinion the best teaching of Civics could be done directly, instancing the work done in connection with the survey and government of the school garden at the Souris school, Weyburn School District No. 512.

At this school the pupils have formed themselves into a regular council along the lines of a municipal council, with reeve and secretary treasurer. A copy of the minutes of two of the meetings of this body has been sent to The Public Service Monthly by Mr. A. Kennedy, the local school inspector, from which it is seen that four "weed inspectors" were appointed; the teachers were appointed legal advisers to the council; a grant of money from the school board was accepted with thanks; blue and white were adopted as the school colours, and the posts of the fence surrounding the school garden are to be painted in these colours. A letter from Mr. Kennedy was read stating that a fund of \$64 had been raised from sixteen subscribers, and recommending that this sum be distributed in prizes for the garden plots showing the best and most constant care during the season. Dr. Mitchell, M.L.A., Chairman of the Board; Mr. P. E. Metherall, Chairman of the Property Committee, and Mr. J. Marshall, M.A., Principal of the High School, were asked to act as judges in this competition. The weed inspectors were instructed to see that owners of plots proceed with the weeding of plots and adjacent paths. In the garden all strings were to be lifted and corner stakes firmly driven, and lastly, a sign bearing the words, "Visitors Welcome," was to be set up at the entrance.

This is a kind of work which might very well be widely imitated. The pupils learn how a public meeting should be conducted and how to address it; the influence of their own acts upon their fellows in the community will quickly be recognized, bringing with it a sense of responsibility to one another, and many a lesson will be drawn showing the value to the individual of collective effort. All of these matters have a very distinct and important educational value.—Public Service Monthly, Saskatchewan.

SASKATCHEWAN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

On the sixth day of December the ratepayers of seven cities, 72 towns, 298 villages, and 297 rural municipalities will nominate candidates who shall govern their respective municipalities during the coming year and on the thirteenth day of December polling will be held. These dates and the importance of the occasions should be kept in mind by every man who pays taxes in the province. The best men in each community should be secured, for much depends on the local administration of municipal affairs during the coming year. It may be repeated that each candidate for municipal honours should show himself sufficiently interested in his community to have every cent of taxes, both arrears and current, paid to the secretary's office before he signs the form of acceptance on nomination day.

VALUES IN LONDON.

Not long ago a tiny piece of ground at Charing Cross, adjoining the Mall Archway, and comprising only 641½ square feet, with a frontage of 69 feet, was sold by the London County Council to an insurance company for \$545,000 an acre.

It is in the city, the square mile of which is valued at \$1,250,000,000, however, where land can easily claim the distinction of being the dearest in the world. For property near the centre of the city \$16,250,000 an acre is not an unusual price. Portions of Cannon street, Queen Victoria street, Upper Thames street, and St. Mary-at-Hill, are said to be worth \$1.25 a square inch, while in Lombard street and King William street land has been sold for \$350 per square foot freehold.

The three acres on which the Bank of England stands would realize at a low estimate \$35,000,000, for the land adjoining has sold at \$350 and \$400 a square foot.

Land in Cornhill was sold at a price which worked out at \$12,452,000 an acre, while some time ago \$5,000,000 was offered and refused for the site of a church in Austin Friars.

Municipal Affairs in British Columbia

(By JACK LOUTET.)

Reduction in Assessments.

Assessments throughout British Columbia are likely to be materially reduced in the rolls now being prepared for 1916, and according to general opinion the reduction is not coming before time.

In the suburban areas, assessments, in the developed sections are considered fairly reasonable, but in the undeveloped districts should in many cases be cut in two. Last year there were few complaints before the Courts of Revision partly owing to the belief that conditions would improve rapidly, but now it is felt that something should be done to reduce the taxation until improved business conditions prevail.

Victoria, which had many complaints against assessments carried into court, has been seriously delayed in the collection of taxes for this year, but has now got its notices out, and the rebate date fixed for November 30. The Tax Sale in Victoria was a small affair, the result of holding annual tax sales for about twenty years with one exception. At this last sale 88 parcels were offered, 58 were sold to private interests, and the balance of 30 were taken over by the City. Many properties were redeemed before the sale.

In most cases throughout the Province Tax Sales have been very unsatisfactory, the present laws being held to be responsible in part for the lack of bidding on the part of the public.

The difficulty in acquiring the title makes it expensive for anyone not actually in business in the city or district concerned, and even in these cases the process is a tedious one.

Many municipalities are urging upon the government the desirability of adopting the legislation outlined by the municipal convention. The present system makes financing impossible without Tax Sales to enforce payment, and the present laws governing tax sales prevent these having much value.

Victoria and adjoining municipalities are now taking up the question of public access to the various beaches, and find that most of these are privately owned and fenced off. An effort will be made to alter this condition of affairs as free access to the beaches is almost essential in a city which is popular as a tourist resort.

Of £143,000 of Treasury Bills due in London on October 2, Victoria has taken up £43,000, and renewed the balance on favourable terms.

Board of Control.

Vancouver is again debating the question of government by Board of Control, voted upon favourably by the ratepayers at a previous election. In the Council votes have been taken on different proposals for changing the present form of government, which it is generally agreed is cumbersome and unsatisfactory. The latest proposal is to have one alderman from each ward instead of two, and a by-law to this effect has been passed by a majority of one.

Several names are mentioned as probable candidates for mayor, but nothing definite has yet transpired.

The employment situation continues to improve, and relief is not likely to become such a serious problem as it was last winter.

South Vancouver continues to provide an illustration of how not to conduct the affairs of a municipality, and without entering into the question as to who is responsible for past troubles it is hoped that another year will witness more businesslike methods. Too much bitterness has entered into the various disputes, and a "burying of the hatchet" is necessary to prevent more serious trouble for this important municipality.

West Vancouver, which for some time has been the main shareholder in a ferry system running at a loss, recently placed before the ratepayers a bylaw to take over the ferry as a municipal department. This was defeated and another bylaw to provide money to pay past and possible future losses was submitted with a like result. The day of paying current debts with money obtained from sales of bonds is past, and ratepayers to-day seem unwilling to saddle posterity with more than the obligations already authorized.

West Vancouver's bonded indebtedness is heavy, and much of it is not represented by capital assets created by the borrowed money.

What looks like a serious matter to some in West Vancouver to-day is the defeat of the by-law, will probably prevent greater troubles in the future.

JACK LOUTET.

CANADIAN HIGHWAYS.

There are at present highway commissioners in most of the Provinces, but they deal with rural highways and are not concerned with the local improvements in cities and towns. It is desirable that every city, town and municipality in each province should have the assistance of a central department on all highly technical engineering questions, including that of road planning and construction. The work of the Road Board in Great Britain and of the Highway Commission of the State of New York are worthy of careful study in this connection, but to be really efficient each provincial highway commission or board should be linked up with a department of local government, dealing with municipal affairs in general and not solely with highways.

The roads in Canada are more important for distribution of produce than in Great Britain, where distances are so short and light railways are so plentiful. In Canada we have had to start off without any of the advantages possessed by older countries in the matter of old foundations and the accumulated work of centuries of road construction. We have to develop motor transportation by road as a means of feeding the great trunk railways and securing the economical distribution of food. Manufacturers and contractors seem to have more say in giving advice regarding the material to be used than elsewhere. The respective obligations of the provincial and the local governing bodies in regard to road construction and maintenance have to be considered. Local authorities need to be advised regarding the proper use and value of different kinds of road material, after adequate trial and investigation by an expert department, in order to save hundred of thousands of dollars spent in unsuitable road material used in local improvements.—Thomas Adams, in Conservation.

POLITICAL IDEAS.

"Politics" primarily means the science of government. It is "that part of ethics which relates to the regulation and government of a nation or state for the preservation of its safety, peace and prosperity." (Imperial Dictionary.) Evidently it is primarily a noble profession, and the office of politician worthy of the best efforts of the best men.

In a self-governing country, the quality of politics depends on the people. Every person is a good or bad politician, and politics are good or bad according as the people are faithful or faithless in the performance of their duty. Voting is one way of expressing the desire of the people for good or bad government. But back of votes is public sentiment, and every one helps to create public sentiment, public spirit. "Even as regards popular elections, the matter is settled before the polls are opened." The result depends on spiritual forces. If selfishness is at the heart of society, we shall have it expressed in bad government.

There is a right way and a wrong way of deciding such questions as are involved in taxation, public franchises, labor legislation, education, charities and all other matters of public concern.

Some Questions for Consideration.—What proportion of the voters of your community failed to vote at the last election? Can unprincipled men be safely chosen as public officers? Whose fault is it if your town or city government is corrupt? What is the Christian rule as applied to taxation? What as to the care of defective or dependent persons? What is your town doing on these lines? What is the relation of good citizenship to Sabbath observance? to the sale of intoxicants? to the preservation of peace? to the matter of national defense? What is being done for the prevention of ignorance, sickness, poverty and crime?

Municipal Affairs in Alberta

By S. B.

Finances Being Adjusted.

On account of the financial conditions that have been in existence for some time, the principal work in connection with municipal affairs which has been occupying the attention of different Municipalities during the last two or three months has been the adjustment of affairs so as to enable them to meet their liabilities and carry on business under the new conditions that have come about. There has been much doing in the shape of retrenchment. The expenses have been reduced as much as possible, and in many cases only absolutely necessary work has been carried on. Every endeavour has also been made to collect outstanding taxes, so that the different Municipal Treasurers may obtain funds enough to carry on business and meet the debenture payments falling due from time to time. On the whole these endeavours have been crowned with success, and in addition to this it is noted with pleasure that many of our Municipalities have been taking an active hand in raising the money required for the patriotic fund. It is true that there have been rumours of certain municipalities being placed in the hands of a Receiver, and so on, but so far there has been nothing but rumours, and it would not appear that there was any necessity for such a step being taken. The officials in authority in our different Municipalities appear to realize the situation in which they are placed and are, I think, doing their best to overcome the difficulties confronting them. While it is not possible to foretell the outcome, there is every indication that matters are being adjusted successfully. The lesson taught, however, in connection with unwise expenditure has been, and will be a severe one. It has brought home very emphatically through hardship and inconvenience the fact that there has been unwise expenditure, and in some cases rather too heavy indebtedness incurred. This experience, while causing inconvenience in many ways, will, on the whole, I think, bring good results in the shape of more careful and conservative management in the future.

The general conditions in the rural parts of the Province are good on account of the abundant harvest, and it is noted that in the Southern parts of the Province the vastly improved conditions over last year appears to have had an effect on the urban centres, so that tax payments are coming in more freely.

The much talked of petition for the recall of Commissioner Garden of Calgary, seems to have been finally laid to rest without having been presented. This speaks well for the Commissioner's chances to remain in office if he so desires. Another Calgary Alderman, in the person of T. A. P. Frost, has enlisted for overseas service, and it is expected that more will follow the same course ere long.

In the City of Edmonton the chief topic in municipal circles during the past month has been the questions of Natural Gas and Hydro-Electric power. A by-law authorizing the City Council to grant a gas franchise has recently been approved of by the ratepayers of the City with a substantial majority. The franchise in question is a franchise for a period of twenty years for the purpose of supplying the City with natural gas at a maximum rate of 25c per thousand cubic feet, for household purposes, and 15c per thousand for manufacturing purposes. The Company that has secured the franchise does not appear to be certain where they will obtain their supply, but they are required to commence work immediately. It is evident that their intention is to first investigate some of the supposed gas fields near the city. While the question as to whether or not this franchise should have been given is open to considerable argument, there is one outstanding fact that might be taken into consideration, and that is, that all our Municipalities, with one or two exceptions, that have undertaken to secure for themselves a supply of natural gas have failed to do so, and have loaded the Municipality with considerable indebtedness without any results of a practical value.

ALDERMANIC CHIEFS.

Three pale faces, after having successfully gone through the initiation ceremonies, were recently admitted to the Iroquois Tribe at Caughnawaga, when Ald. Giroux, Therrien and Menard, of Montreal, were invested with all the powers of Indian chiefs.

Convention of Alberta Municipalities.

During the past month the outstanding feature in our urban affairs was the Annual Convention of the Alberta Union of Municipalities. This Convention was held at Bassano on October 20 and 21. The Convention was very representative of the cities and towns, but it was noted with deep regret that very few of our hundred odd villages had sent delegates. The Sessions were interesting, and the speakers dealt in an intelligent way with a number of municipal problems that are in the limelight here at present. As might be expected, the question of ways and means of enforcing payment of delinquent taxes was given a good deal of attention. The method followed in the State of Oregon by which Tax Certificates are sold for a period of years before the land is finally sold for taxes was discussed, and the Provincial Department of Municipal Affairs was asked to investigate the system in question and find out whether or not it might with profit be brought into force in this Province.

Another matter which was discussed at considerable length was the relationship of Municipal Councils and School Boards. It appeared to be the opinion of many of the delegates present that the school expenditures were not always controlled as well as they might be, and that possibly some arrangements could be made whereby the Municipal Council would have certain measure of control.

The Sessions of the Convention were presided over by the genial President of the Association, Mr. W. D. L. Hardie, Mayor of the City of Lethbridge, and much of the success of the Convention was no doubt due to the energetic way in which Mr. Hardie and the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. A. W. G. Allan, of Red Deer, had kept the Municipalities interested in the work of the Union during the year. Mayor M. C. Costello, of Calgary, was elected President for the ensuing year, and the efficient Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. A. W. G. Allen, of Red Deer, has been continued in office. That the Union of Alberta Municipalities works in harmony with the Provincial Government, and also that its work is appreciated by that body was indicated by the fact that both the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hon. M. Garipey, and Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, Jno. Perrie, were in attendance at the different Sessions of the Convention.

Board of Commissioners.

Another outstanding feature in connection with recent municipal work in the Province was the bringing into force by a Proclamation of the Public Utilities Act at the last Session of the Provincial Legislature, and the appointment of a Board of Commissioners to administer this Act. This Act makes provision whereby action may be taken by the Board of Commissioners to remedy any irregularities in connection with the operation of any of the public utilities in the Province. The Board of Commissioners has also power to deal with all municipal loans, and it is probably in this way that it will come more closely in contact with the majority of the Municipalities in the Province. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, no Municipality in the Province can now incur any debenture indebtedness without the approval of the Board. Before a Money By-law is submitted to the ratepayers of the Municipality, full particulars as to the proposed loan must be laid before the Board, and approval received before any steps can be taken towards the issuing of debentures. In dealing with matters of this kind the Board will, of course, consider whether or not the Municipality is financially able to carry the debt, and also as to whether or not the proposed expenditure is justified. The Board consists of a chairman and two members. The chairman is Mr. G. H. V. Bulyea, former Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, and the other two members are Mr. Jno. Stocks, formerly Deputy Minister of Public Works, and Mr. A. A. Carpenter, formerly Judge of the District Court.

SOLDIERS ALLOWED VOTE.

City Clerk Baker, of London, declares that all London men who are in training there for overseas service, will be allowed to vote as usual, provided their names are on the roll. All had until November 25 to see if their names were registered.

SOME BIG MUNICIPAL MEN

(By AJAX)

THOMAS ADAMS.

At Ottawa, in the offices of the Commission of Conservation, were recently met together the representatives of every phase of civic society working in Canada—from the woman suffrage to the official civic class—from child's welfare to town planning and most of them there with their hobbies and fads. These men and women had all met at the instance of one man, because they believed in him and his mission, and these same enthusiasts had sufficient confidence that through him in some way—directly or indirectly—would be brought about the consummation of their hopes, which to many had been long delayed. Yet this man, Thomas Adams, has offered no panacea for the ills of the body civic of Canada, but (and herein lies the man's influence) that strong face of his, with the kindly eyes, has impressed itself on every being he has come in contact with. One feels that his city planning propaganda is the result of many years' study of human nature, as well as streets and houses and hygiene. Essentially practical and direct in his methods, he convinces his hearers of the common-sense of his gospel, and be it remembered it is the common-sense of the big man who is able to make his great work live again to the ordinary mortal. And Thomas Adams is adjudged by those who know, the greatest expert in the world to-day in town planning.

He had his experience in England, which was so real that he had to make one visit only to the United States to revolutionize their conception of town planning. Before his visit to our neighbors to the south their theories were so strange and complicated as to be beyond the ken of man, but Adam's magic wand of practical experience changed the complexion of the whole thing. The impossible became possible—a cult became tangible. And what is better still, business men saw daylight in town planning, with the consequence that the United States is absorbing the principle; but, as in everything else, only in doses.

It has been left for Canada to show to the world a concrete example of national city planning. At least, that is the ambition of Thomas Adams, if the people of this country will allow themselves to be "planned." And so as part of his great scheme the persistent Scotchman has launched his Civic Improvement League. It is true that, like wise men, the Commissioners of Conservation allowed themselves to be made fathers, and the principal civic men of Canada leaders of the movement. But the League is bound to succeed with Mr. Adams as the pivot. He was borrowed from the Imperial Government specially for the job of advising the people of Canada in regard to the material betterment of their urban life. For that is practically what city or town planning, as preached by Adams, means, and he is determined to get results before he goes back. He will, for this reason. The powers that be, that is, the municipal councils, with few exceptions, see eye to eye with the Adam con-

ception of city planning. This means something. Other men had come to Canada with town planning schemes, and they had failed, and rightly so, because of the impracticability of their adoption, not only in Canada, but in every other country. But as already pointed out, Thomas Adams' plan is simple, and more on a prevention than cure model.

City Planning by Mr. Adams is not confined to the laying out of streets and parks. His conception of the City Beautiful is that of the contented home, the sense of civic pride and responsibility in the individual. In fact, his propaganda covers the whole range of city governance. Not so much in the particular form of government, or even the personnel of the council, but rather in giving something to the people to be proud of. Hence his value to the municipal life of the country. If the Commission of Conservation had done nothing else but engage Thomas Adams for the conservation of the best in our civic life, it would have paid for its existence.

Before Mr. Adams' appointment to the Local Government Board of the Old Country, he had made a reputation for his part in the Garden City movement, which has been a great success in England and Scotland. As a Local Government Board official he conducted many enquiries into municipal and other schemes, and just before coming to Canada he was appointed External Examiner of Civic Design at the University of Liverpool. Giving up these associations to come to this country must have been a sacrifice to Mr. Adams, though he avers that these have been partially made up by the spirit shown to him and his work here by the people of Canada.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS OF INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION.

For resolution of the housing problem in cities, four of the nine members of the U. S. A. Commission on Industrial Relations recommend that

Special attention should be given to taxation in order that land should, as far as possible, be forced into use and the burden of taxation be removed into homeowners.

For solution of the agricultural landlord and tenant problem, they found it necessary to recommend—

The revision of the taxation system so as to exempt from taxation all improvements, and tax unused land at its full rental value.

For solution of the problem of unemployment, they found, after long investigation, that whatever else may seem to be necessary, the one thing that cannot be neglected is—

The forcing of all unused land into use by making the tax on non-productive the same as on productive land of the same kind, and exempting all improvements.

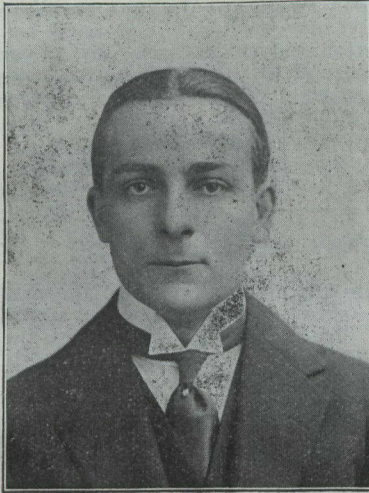
In short, whatever industrial question they studied relating to social unrest, they found the land question at the bottom.—The Square Deal.

RAILWAY BETWEEN TORONTO AND LONDON.

At a conference at Berlin, Ont., at which the Hydro Electric Commission met representatives of Berlin, Waterloo Township and other municipalities, a resolution was passed approving the general plan of the proposed railway between Toronto and London.

A Dominion Scheme to Provide for Returning Soldiers

By CHRISTOPHER J. YORATH,
City Commissioner, Saskatoon.



At the termination of the present war, the magnitude of which surpasses all previous wars in the history of the world, and which has resulted in the dislocation of trade, commerce and industry upon a scale not previously known, there will be a period of transition and adjustment during which a large amount of unemployment will prevail, resulting in both misery and wasteful expenditure in its alleviation unless a complete scheme is now organized to provide employment immediately after the cessation of hostilities.

Large numbers of soldiers will return—those now working in munition factories and the allied trades will be thrown out of employment, and there will be a large influx of immigration into the country.

How are the returning soldiers and those thrown out of employment by the stopping of work in the munition factories to be found work? Are they to be allowed to drift back into the villages, towns and cities from which they came to loaf about with the ultimate option of accepting charity or starving? A few have already returned, and it appears that even with the few there is difficulty in providing for their needs and comforts through the lack of some organized system.

It has been stated that each Province and every local authority will be expected to take care of their own, but where everyone is responsible no one is responsible, and there is no doubt that bitter complaints will be heard from those who at the call of duty have sacrificed all in the Empire's cause.

Appointment of Special Commission.

The responsibility is the Dominion's. While there should be no doubt that the local authorities and the Provincial Governments will be more than willing to bear their share of the burden, the circumstances are so unprecedented, and are of such magnitude that instead of being left to local and Provincial effort, there should be a special Commission appointed to organize a Dominion scheme which will effectively deal with the situation.

Scope of Commission.

- 1.—Permanent employment for as many as possible who have no position to which they can return.
- 2.—Temporary employment for the remainder, until sufficient time has elapsed to allow of the proper assimilation of the various trades, professions and occupations by the economic development of the country.
- 3.—Temporary recreation, rest and enquiry rooms in various centres throughout the country where returning soldiers can obtain information as to employment, and a few hours' recreation and rest.
- 4.—Convalescent homes for wounded soldiers.
- 5.—Homes for soldiers who, through their wounds are permanently disabled from carrying on any trade or occupation.

Permanent and Temporary Employment.

By an organized system the Commission can be in touch with the employers of permanent labor, such as the railway companies, government departments and local authorities, so that many of the returning men who will be in the best of health and physique can be found permanent employment.

The finding of temporary employment, however, during the time when the usual channels of employment are closed, will be a far more difficult question to settle, but it is essential that provision should be made now to meet this situation so that employment for returning soldiers will be found during the transition period mentioned above|

How Employment Can Be Assured.

Employment can be provided and assured if the Commission has full power to:

1.—Curtail as far as is deemed expedient the construction of all public works, buildings, railways, improvements, etc., during the continuance of the war. This is necessary in the interests of economy when the financial resources of the Empire are required to be conserved for war purposes only, and the increase in Dominion taxation offset by decrease in Provincial and local taxation. This system is at present being put into operation in Great Britain and France:

the financial resources of the Empire are required to be conserved for war purposes only, and the increase in Do-

2.—Collaborate with the various Provincial Governments and local authorities so that a complete scheme for the construction of the most urgent public works and buildings will be commenced immediately the war is over;

3.—Prohibit the issue of debentures for the financing of any public works until same had been passed upon and sanctioned by the Commission.

This system would not only prevent wasteful expenditure, but would also ensure the carrying-out of those works which were essential for the public welfare at a time when employment is most needed, and it will only be by some scheme such as this that the confidence of financiers will be eventually restored in connection with capital expenditures incurred by local authorities.

Financing.

In many cases it will be impossible for the local authorities to finance the expenditure in connection with any buildings and improvements that might be approved by the Commission without selling their debentures at a price very much below their par value, and there would be grave danger of the scheme for finding employment being disorganized by a delay in the simultaneous commencement of these works.

This difficulty can be overcome by the Commission being given similar powers to that of the Public Works Loan Commissioners of Great Britain, whereby they would be enabled to float a consolidated loan and make temporary advances to those authorities which were prevented from making their own financial arrangements at the proper time.

Recreation and Enquiry Rooms.

So that soldiers returning to their homes can obtain information and employment it will be necessary for the Commission to establish enquiry bureaus in different centres throughout the country. These bureaus would be under the control of and obtain information from a central head office as to where either permanent or temporary employment could be obtained, and if necessary arrange for the transportation of the men to the place of employment.

In connection with these bureaus could be attached recreation, rest and reading rooms where returning soldiers waiting for employment could pass away a few pleasant hours instead of having to wander about the streets; as they so often have to do at the present time.

Convalescent and Permanent Homes.

The necessity will soon have arisen, if it has not already done so, to provide convalescent homes for the wounded and also permanent homes for those soldiers who have been permanently disabled, and who have no families or relatives to support them. It would be the duty of the Commission to organize, either by public subscription or otherwise, the establishment of these homes.

The advantages of placing the whole question of providing for returning soldiers under a special Commission are obvious, and need not be elaborated upon.

The above suggestions are made chiefly with the view to dealing with the dislocation of employment which is certain to arise immediately after the termination of war when all those now employed in the army will be looking for employment in other spheres, and also to provide adequate and suitable accommodation for wounded soldiers.

The question of a proper system to control the best form of immigration is one affecting the permanent welfare of the country, and is at present being dealt with by the Government.

A Few Answers re "Our Duty to Returned Soldiers"

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., November 17, 1915.

The Editor,

Dear Sir,—I am instructed to advise that the City Council approves of the principle of relief advocated by the Municipal Journal in its editorial re "Our Duty to Returned Soldiers."

A Citizens Committee has been appointed to deal with all phases of this question.

Yours truly,

T. J. THOMAS,
Asst. City Clerk.

VICTORIA, B.C.

November 16, 1915.

RE DUTY OF MUNICIPALITIES IN RESPECT OF RETURNED SOLDIERS.

The Editor

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th inst, addressed to His Worship the Mayor, with reference to this subject, and, in reply, to say that this city has not been lax in its preparations for looking after the welfare of soldiers returning from the front.

There is one committee of citizens, known as the "Welcome Committee," of which the Mayor is Chairman, which is charged with the duty of welcoming such soldiers on their arrival,—often with the accompaniment of a band—and of providing suitable quarters for any lacking them and medical care, and treatment, if required.

There is another committee whose duty it is to find work for them to do if, and when, they are able to do it.

These committees have been in existence for some considerable time and actively engaged in the work for which they were organized.

The only thing the city has not done is to accord such soldiers the freedom of the city which, of course, is honorary,—but the essential things of welcome, care, and work have not been neglected, but provided. And, in this connection, it should be mentioned that the Honourable, the Provincial Secretary, has advised His Worship the Mayor that the Provincial Government has undertaken to form a Provincial Committee to act in conjunction with the Military Hospitals Commission at Ottawa in regard to providing employment for members of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces on their return to Canada.

This committee will consist of seven members nominated by the Councils and local committees of Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo.

Yours truly,

W. J. DOWLER, City Clerk.

CITY OF OUTREMONT.

The Editor,

Dear Sir,—Below please find extract from minutes of a general meeting of the Council of the City of Outremont, held on the 17th instant.

It was resolved "That a Roll of Honor be preserved among the archives of the city for the purpose of preserving the names and records of all those patriotic residents of the city who have volunteered and have served in any capacity with the forces of His Majesty, or any of the forces of His Allies, during the present war between the two great European Alliances."

Yours faithfully,

E. T. SAMPSON,
City Clerk.

Montreal South, Que., November 19, 1915.

The Editor,

Your circular letter of November 7 was read at the regular meeting of the Council of Montreal South last evening and I am instructed to inform you that by a unanimous resolution the sentiments contained therein were concurred in and as far as lies in the power of the Council they will give a hearty and patriotic welcome to any of our boys returning from the front; but we trust that none of the boys from our town will require to be received until they return with victory perched on their banner.

M. M. CONDON,
Town Clerk.

CALGARY, November 23, 1915.

The Editor:

I beg to advise you that as per your request of Nov. 8th, editorial from the Canadian Municipal Journal on "Our Duty to Returned Soldiers" was read before Council last evening. In this connection I was instructed to advise you that Council and a Special Citizens' Committee have been appointed for the purpose of carrying out a campaign such as outlined by your editorial.

Yours truly,

J. M. MILLER,
City Clerk.

CARBERRY, MAN., Nov. 16, 1915.

The Editor,

Replying to yours of the 8th inst. referring to the article on "Our Duty to Returned Soldiers" beg to advise you that at the regular meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Carberry held here Nov. 15th, 1915, a motion, a copy of which I enclose, carried.

Yours truly,

A. E. HORTON,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Copy of Motion before Council of Town of Carberry on the 15th November, 1915. Carried.

That the Council heartily endorse the Communication of the Canadian Municipal Journal, dated Nov. 8, 1915, concerning "Our Duty to Returned Soldiers," and pledges itself to do its utmost to assist all soldiers returning to this District.

CITY OF CHILLIWACK, B.C., Nov. 16, 1915.

The Editor,

In reply to your circular of the 8th inst. re Returning Soldiers, I am directed to state that this Council heartily endorses the views therein expressed, some of which have already received the attention of the Council.

Faithfully yours,

PETER J. BROWN,
Clerk.

STRATFORD, ONT., Nov. 15, 1915.

To the Editor:

Your editorial re Our Duty to Returned Soldiers. I am pleased to state that in every instance where I could get in touch with the time of arrival of returned soldiers, the citizens have been notified, and the response has been enthusiastic. Several have returned without giving time and date, and last week we gave a reception in the Armouries to all returned soldiers, and I can assure you it was a happy gathering, and filled my heart with gladness to meet the men who have been risking their lives for our "Stay-at-Homes." The writer was born in 1850, and in 1864 was a Cadet in the British Navy, and it is the old spirit of duty to the Empire that remains in my make-up, for the welfare of our boys at the front, and their return, and every move that can be made to make our returned soldiers feel that we appreciate their service to the Empire. Too much cannot be done for them.

It was my pleasure to welcome back several Volunteers of the South African War, and I trust I will be privileged to welcome back many of our boys from the front at no distant date.

Yours truly,

E. K. BARNSDALE,
Mayor.

CITY OF KAMLOOPS, November 23, 1915.

The Editor:—

Yours of the 8th inst. with copy of an editorial from the November issue of your journal re "Our Duty to Returned Soldiers," was laid before the Municipal Council at their last meeting, when I was directed to inform you that they heartily endorse the idea, and are taking steps to appoint a competent committee to take care of returned soldiers arriving in this city.

Yours truly,

J. J. CARMENT,
City Clerk.

LADY CITY CLERKS.
City of Lethbridge, Alta.

The Editor:

We have been interested in the articles in the November, and an earlier issue of The Canadian Municipal Journal, re the first and only Lady City Clerk (excepting one in Poland), in the wide wide world. This is not correct. In 1913 the City of Lethbridge had a very efficient and acceptable Lady City Clerk (not acting), in the person of Miss Esther M. Jones, who held the appointment from the time she received it until she got married. The remarkable part is that this appointment was so unique that it got a lot of publicity which you must have overlooked.

Lady City Clerks are all right, are equally efficient and acceptable, other things being equal, as men, and I can assure you that our Lady City Clerk lost none of her charms by holding this office—we are fifty-three, have a wife and family whom we adore—so you see we are capable of being an impartial judge.

The only objections that we can see to a capable Lady City Clerk, is that there is always the danger of losing her at the wrong moment through marriage. That, of course, is a bad feature, because, in our estimation there is no more important office than that of a City Clerk, and when a good one is in office it is a pity to lose him or her. Continuity of service in that office is of incalculable value to a city.

Here's luck to the Lady City Clerk.

W. D. L. HARDIE,
Mayor.

THE UNFIT AND THE UNFULFILLED.

Esther B. Means, in the Survey.

She stood in the midst of Spring and looked out upon the world. Down the pathways everywhere, sunshine glittered on the bare boughs with a light like a spoken word and flamed gloriously on the green tips of the outer twigs with that baptism of fire which is the touch of Spring.

In the distance spread before her all the human pathways of happiness; she could catch the echo of children's voices through the soft air, and trace the faint lines of smoke that rose from all the hearth-stones of the world.

Her heart sang and her arms were full of roses.

"I have sunlight in my heart," she cried; "skies bluer than heaven in my dreams, and all the roses of the world are heaped in my glad arms. I have work and love and joy, and soon I, too, shall have a hearth flame to keep burning and shall be crowned with a life fulfilled."

Then she laughed, with the exquisite, echoing radiance which is the laugh of Spring.

Then came Life by that path and looked sadly at the woman and went on his way.

And the Winds of Distance tore a rose from those she held against her heart—then another and another. Yet others the plucking fingers of Circumstance stole and crushed and strewed at her feet in drifts of wilted petals. And finally, Death gently unlocked the circling hands, and so she stood—with outstretched arms that grasped at space—and clasped nothing.

But at last soft mists arose from the valleys, spread to the ripening fields of the euplands and wreathed the distant hills with veils of sunlit haze. And the autumn wind, awakening, thrilled through the world its promise of vigorous days to come on winter's crackling footsteps.

Then, Earth asked of the woman: "Seasons pass, why stand you so?"

"I am dead," answered the woman, "but being dead, must yet guard the flame of my bitter loss, which seasons pass by and quench not."

"What is thy bitter loss?" asked Earth.

"The ache of my empty arms—the sharp cry of my starving soul—the pain of the Unfulfilled."

"Raise thine eyes and see," said Earth.

Coming slowly nearer her were two little children, stumbling, furtive, unclean; and behind them in the path others and still others, until all the pathways of life were filled with the throngs of these pitiful things. And the woman awoke and cried in agony, "Tell me, what sufferers come here?"

Then they raised their weak arms to her and cried aloud, "We come—the Unfit."

And the woman opened wide her arms, and the tiny woful creatures crept against her heart and were comforted. And it seemed to the woman that the sunlight glittered wonderfully along the bare boughs, that the skies bent tenderly above her, that her arms were filled with the Roses of Life.

CANADIAN PATRIOTIC FUND.

The Editor,

I enclose herewith a list of municipalities that are contributing to the Canadian Patriotic Fund, in the hopes that this means of increasing the resources at our disposal will meet with your approval and editorial support.

The demands upon our Fund have become so heavy that a general and generous response from the whole of Canada is necessary, if the pledges we have made to our soldiers are to be redeemed. For the next 12 months at least seven and one-half million dollars will be required. We have no fear as to our ability to secure even this large sum, provided that we receive the co-operation of all sections of the public press.

Yours truly,

PHILIP H. MORRIS,
Assistant Secretary.

CITY COUNCILS REPORTED AS HAVING MADE GRANTS TO PATRIOTIC FUND.

1914-1915.

Toronto.....	\$50,000.00
Halifax.....	25,000.00
Ottawa.....	50,000.00
Montreal.....	150,000.00
Quebec.....	20,000.00
Winnipeg (\$5,000 per month)....	60,000.00
St. John, N.B.....	10,000.00
Hamilton ..	20,000.00
Berlin ..	10,000.00
Galt (\$400.00 per month)	4,800.00
Sydney, N. S.	7,500.00
Guelph ..	2,000.00
Kingston ..	5,000.00
Westmount ..	5,000.00
Outremont ..	5,000.00
Maisonneuve ..	5,000.00
Verdun ..	3,000.00
Montreal West	3,000.00

ONTARIO COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY GRANTS,—

1914-1915.

Bruce Co.—\$1,000 for 6 mos., \$4,000 for 6 mos.	\$ 30,000.00
Dufferin—\$500 per month since July, 1915	6,000.00
Elgin Co.—\$1,000 per month	12,000.00
Essex Co.—\$500 per month since Feb., 1915	6,000.00
Frontenac Co.—\$500 per month since July 1, 1915	6,000.00
Grey Co.—\$1,000 per month	12,000.00
Haldimand Co.—\$500 for 6 mos., \$1,000 for 6 mos.	9,000.00
Hastings Co.—\$1,000 per month since July, 1915	12,000.00
Huron Co.—\$1,000 for 6 months, \$6,000 per month for 6 months	42,000.00
Kent Co.—\$500 per month since Feb., 1915	6,000.00
Lambton Co.—\$600 per month since Jan., 1915	7,200.00
Leeds and Grenville.—\$300 per month since May, 1915	3,600.00
Northumberland and Durham.—\$500 per month since December, 1914	6,000.00
Ontario Co.—\$500 per quarter	2,000.00
Perth Co.—\$1,400 per month since April 1, 1915	16,800.00
Peterborough—\$400 every 3 months	1,600.00
Prince Edward Co.—\$500 per month since September, 1914	6,000.00
Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry—\$600 per month since July, 1915	7,200.00

Yearly value of above \$191,400.00

AFTER THE PLAYGROUND, WHAT?

Many cities in Canada have instituted the public playgrounds; many more might with advantage do so. There is also a special need for enlarging the scope of the present undertakings. The season for the public playground as now adopted, is practically at an end. What is to take its place? The school-yard affords a recreation ground only during school hours, after which the children have no claim to its use.

The schools represent a public investment, and, consequently, should be available for public use whenever such use does not interfere with their primary purpose. They might well be utilized for an extension of the playground movement. In many of them space could no doubt be made available for installing much of the playground, as well as other, equipment, for indoor gymnasiums for the children.

REVIEW OF CIVIC IMPROVEMENT

Conducted by

W. H. ATHERTON, Ph. D. (Sec. City Improvement League of Montreal)

Recently in these columns we have been advocating the closer study of the forms of government suitable for Canadian cities. The review of the civic situation in Canada which appeared in the September number of this Journal has aroused attention. The following article on the "Civic Governance of Canada" will serve to offer further suggestive thought to our Canadian Municipal thinkers who are now to be brought closer together through the projected City Improvement League of Canada, and through a recognized journal or organ for common united course.—W. H. A.

CITY GOVERNANCE.

R. O. WYNNE ROBERTS.

One of the basic principles of good government is mutual confidence, for without that, popular government is impossible, and we would revert to autocracy and even worse.

Men and Measures the Chief Point.

It may also be stated in general terms that government is a reflex of the mental attitude of the people. If the people are indifferent to public affairs, and concentrate on their own personal matters, then the government also will tend to be indifferent. If the people are willing to be bulldozed into corrupt administration they will have it, and its attendant evils; if they are willing to submit and accept what is given them, then any form of government can be rendered abortive. Even an electorate alive to its responsibilities, and endeavoring to secure good government by electing men of high reputation is sometimes doomed to disappointment. The recent episode at Nashville, Tenn., appears to be one of the unfortunate civic maladministrations which occur under any system. At Nashville they have one of the most modern systems of city government in America, but despite this, the city had to be placed in the hands of the receivers. This was not the fault of the system, but of the men elected by the people. Mutual confidence was absent. The Outlook of Sept. 1, 1915, in this connection, made the following pertinent remark: "The trouble lies not in the form of government, but in the people of the city, who expected a form of government to do what they only through themselves can do."

When confidence has been abused, then the crime should be adequately punished.

There are many forms of civic government now in operation, and others that are advocated.

But granted that the most important point of successful city government lies in the character of the electors, and the character of the elected, there remains the ever-interesting subject of the best form of governments for a modern city.

German Municipal Bureaucracy.

Prior to the war Germany was the mecca of all things good and worthy of adoption, but Germany has fallen from grace, and her institutions and works are not so acceptable. Still, it is worth while to consider the various forms of government, so that we may understand them. German municipal government is bureaucratic, probably the most bureaucratic known. Take Konigsberg, for example; the burgomaster is a specialist in municipal administration, and holds office for a number of years. The deputy burgomaster also is a man of experience, and is appointed for a definite period. The Council is elected by the people, and the Commissioners are appointed. Each Commissioner—and there are many of them—controls a department, and has a staff of officials under him. Every detail of administration is provided for, and every minutae is attended to with care. The Council directs the policy and decides what shall be done, but the Magistrates, consisting of the Commissioners and the burgomasters, decide the details of everything that is to be submitted to the Council for authorization. The care with which the burgomasters are appointed is an index of the efficiency of the city government. German city government, however, is too bureaucratic in its inception, and too expensive in its operation to be adopted outside that country. Salaries in

Germany are low, and men are there content to accept an official position, draw an inadequate remuneration and perform their duties with care and precision. This, however, would not be possible elsewhere. Moreover, German ideals, while satisfactory to the ratepayers who are trained by years of military rule, would be thoroughly repugnant to people who have not been nurtured under such laws. German city government is a success in that country, and it is rare that maladministration is detected; when such is found it is seriously dealt with.

British City Government.

In Britain, the government of cities is the development or evolution of centuries by people who have always insisted upon a measure of freedom. It is not claimed that British City Government is eminently suited for other countries, because the trend of thought of peoples differ, and their comprehension of the needs of the public are so dissimilar. It was by a gradual process of elimination of obsolete ideas and the substitution of new methods more appropriate to the time that British city government attained its present condition, though no change has occurred by which the system was altered in stability and continuity. The system, nevertheless, is sufficiently flexible to allow of modifications and enlargement of power. These changes are taking place each year. They are unnoticed because the machinery for effecting the changes works smoothly, unobtrusively and effectually. If a city desires to have some additional power, or any function enlarged, or an Act of Parliament modified in some way, it can be done with the consent and co-operation of the Local Government Board.

Local Government Boards.

The Local Government Board is the cornerstone of the municipal superstructure. This Board has been in existence for about 50 years; its functions and operations have annually been extended, and no new municipal power is granted without the Local Government Board having ample control over it. At the same time this Board is not looked upon with grave apprehension, suspicion or dislike. It is similar to the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada, it causes no uneasiness to those who are reconciled to perform their duties without equivocation. Occasionally some officials kick against the decisions of the Local Government Board, but later on the same officials may be heard defending the Board. There is no doubt that the Local Government Board has been a considerable aid in its stabilizing influence, and by checking extravagance and promoting progress. It has also enabled the municipal authorities to obtain their loans at very low rates of interest.

Canadian City Government.

In Canada municipal government legislation is framed more or less upon the British lines, although there are some differences. In Britain the Council ordinarily consists of the Mayor, Councillors and Aldermen. Councillors are elected for periods of three years, and they elect the Aldermen and Mayor; Aldermen hold office for six years, and the Mayor for one year. In Canada there are no Councillors, and the Aldermen and Mayor are elected by the voters. In many cities there are also Controllers elected annually by the people, or Commissioners appointed by the Council. In other cities, again, there is the Commission form of government, which might be more correctly named the City Directors, for they are few in number, and each direct a specific department. This is the case in Lethbridge, etc.

Modern City Government in U. S. A.

In the United States, municipal government systems are in the melting pot. A goodly few systems have already been laddled out, and tried, but before they are given a fair opportunity to be properly tried, modifications are sometimes introduced. The different forms are evolved to meet local conditions, and to remove certain influences. There can be no doubt that there is a sincere effort made by men who have devoted their energy and knowledge to improve matters. The latest American form is that of the City Manager and Commissioners, as described in your September issue by Dr. Atherton. This

is similar to the Lethbridge system, with the addition of one executive head official.

The oldest of the new forms of City Government in the States is that at Galveston, which is not yet fifteen years old, and the other systems are still younger.

No form of government is capable of effectual development in such a short time. It cannot be planted and its growth forced without danger of serious weakness setting in. Governments of all form require time to develop, and bear fruit. The writer does not for one moment decry changes, progress is impossible without change, but the point is that it is unreasonable to expect new government methods to alter the ideals of the people, except by the ordinary course of education and enlightenment. The old method of city administration may not have been suited to the people in the United States, it may have been misapplied or misdirected, and the only hope for eradicating any evils which have grown under its aegis may have been the creation of a new and radically different system. We are told that in the multitude of counsel there is wisdom, but the tendency of the present day is to reduce the number of City Aldermen and place more authority in Controllers, or Commissioners. If this is essential for the good of a city, there can, of course, be no objection, so long as due care is taken in the selection of these men, and what is of equal importance, that they are men enjoying the confidence of the people. City government to-day requires something more tangible and enduring than merely popularity, excellent as that may be, in a City Controller. It does not always tend to popularity to judicially administer city affairs. It often happens that certain decisions or actions conflict with some local interests, or are objectionable to others because of alleged curtailment of former privileges. A strict impartial performance of public duties will often antagonize a section of the public. What is a Controller to do under such circumstances? He must one day seek re-election, and he knows that a wave of organized unpopularity may mean his rejection at the poll. A City Controller has many difficult tasks to perform, if the functions of his office are rightly interpreted and fulfilled. If they are not so interpreted and fulfilled, then the office is virtually a sinecure.

Commissioners who are appointed are not subject to the same disconcerting conditions as in the case of Controllers, and, furthermore, they are usually men who have had long training in city administration. They hold office during the pleasure of the Council, and are therefore executive and advisory officers of the Council. Whereas Controllers are not necessarily men of previous experience in municipal affairs and hold salaried office for one year, until re-elected, usually having the same voting powers as the aldermen. It may be argued that in the case of the Controllers the ratepayers have the annual opportunity of expressing their confidence or otherwise, and that the principle is therefore democratic. If this is carried to its logical issue, then all of the principal officials should conform to the democratic principle, and there would then be a monstrous scramble for the appointments, resulting in a subversion of the true ideals of city administration to that of personal aggrandizement. Men who conscientiously perform their public duties should be protected against disgruntled people, which would be impossible if they had to solicit their votes. These men should have every inducement to remain in office, even though occasional criticisms are levelled at them. It is in the continuity of office that there is hope for effectual improvement.

Continuity of Office Desirable.

It is one of the regrettable features of civic government in newer countries that continuity of service of capable Aldermen and officials prevails in very few cities. Aldermen of fairly long experience are supplanted by men of little experience, because the voters are often promised great things by candidates. City government suffers by frequent changes on the Council or staff of officials. Changes in policy or programme is often very expensive and unsatisfactory. Perhaps one of the reasons why British city government is stable and reasonably successful in the pronounced measure of continuity of service. There are plenty of instances of men who have served in the same Council for 25 to 40 years. The Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Newcastle-on-Tyne City Council has occupied that post of honour for about 20 years. He is one of the largest ratepayers, and is a member of several public bodies. This is by no means a rare example. This gentleman, by virtue of his long experience

in city affairs, and his position on other bodies, has become as familiar with city administration as the principal officials, and being conversant with the city's requirement, he has a powerful equalizing influence upon the policies of the Council, which influence is so noticeable by its absence in newer countries.

The balancing, stabilizing and restraining effect of Aldermen in Britain has contributed towards a continuity of policy, as such Aldermen are elected for periods of six years, and are in a measure only indirectly influenced by passing sentiments of the people. Should there happen to be a volcanic outburst of public resentment occasioned by any misjudgment of the Council, and many of the Councillors are rejected at the poll, there is at least a certain theoretical measure of balancing effect retained by the Aldermen to prevent too drastic and capricious a change in policy or action.

Dr. Atherton's Ideas Reviewed.

The review by Dr. Atherton in your issue of September, 1915, is interesting and instructive. He traces the development of the "Anglo-American" system of government, and whilst he evidently approved of the system as a whole, he also condemns the same system as it has developed in Montreal. One remark of his that indirectly the Commission form of government "has stirred up the people to take a democratical and personal interest in civic affairs, and has led them to demand a better quality of efficiency and honesty in their civic rulers, which some think the most useful and certain features in the new experiment" may be correct, and can no doubt be proved by the number of votes which were polled under the old and new regime.

The change from the old form to the Commission system will in itself induce a certain amount of enthusiasm, but it is hoped that as the sheen of novelty wears off the public interest will remain, and not lapse into its former apathetic condition. Dr. Atherton, in summarizing the values of Boards of Control, states that they are centralization of business, fixity of responsibility and election at large.

The centralization of business is excellent if carried out to a reasonable extent. One Controller may limit the powers of all in his department to routine work, reserving discretionary powers to himself. Another Controller will impose responsibility on his staff, and retain for himself authority to decide important matters. The work of managing a city comprises so many duties that it is desirable to centralize the business as far as possible. When the business becomes circumlocutory, it is time to decentralize.

The main cause of trouble lies in the fact that one body is superimposed upon another, and these are expected to co-operate. The scheme works nicely for a time, but, like most things human, differences of opinion ultimately arise, which grow into friction and the machinery is clogged.

The Board of Control asserts it is the Council's fault, and the Council, with equal liveliness, reciprocate the accusation, and the public, amid the confusion of statements must arrive at its own conclusion as to which is responsible. When the election takes place the Controllers and Aldermen will defend their actions, parties will be formed, and the people must elect—whom? The most popular speaker, and strongest organizer! This may be considered democratical, but it is not exactly the desirable way.

Dr. Atherton also refers to the case of Boston, and here it is thought lies the germ of future systems. It is not perhaps sufficiently developed. The Finance Commission is approaching the British Local Government Board. That Board audits the books of most of the local authorities in Britain, with the exception of the larger cities, and holds enquiries into the affairs of an authority when so requested.

Conclusions and Suggestions.

Having stated my views on the principal point of City Government, it would probably be said that it is easy to criticize, but what would be proposed as an alternative?

Four main conditions must be observed. The system must be democratic in principle; there must be some balancing or controlling body; the executive or administrative body must be removed from politics and elections; there must be an independent authority possessed of powers to decide various matters.

(To be continued next month).

Value of Canadian Municipals in U.S.A.

As an indication of the value put on Canadian municipals by Americans, the following extracts taken from the "United States Investor" make interesting and instructive reading:

Canada to-day offers a very attractive field for investment. The European War has brought about conditions whereby American investors can purchase Canadian Government and Municipal bonds of absolutely sound security and carrying handsome yield. London formerly was the principal market for the provincial and municipal securities of Canada. In fact, the confidence that the investors of England placed in the great country to the north of us is well reflected in the millions of dollars they had there invested. London has been a world investor for so many years that she has been followed in her investment purchases in a great many cases.

To-day, England and London must finance the tremendous expenditures being made in carrying on the war, and London, as a market for Canadian securities, has been made practically unavailable. The result is that the Canadian provinces and municipalities have had to seek other markets. What is more natural than that they should come to the United States? As a matter of fact, the bankers of this country were not slow in accepting the opportunity for investing, on a large scale, in Canada. As a usual thing, the bankers of this country who are dealing in Canadian securities are closely affiliated with some strong Canadian banking interests which have had years of experience in the Canadian market. They also have men on their staffs who have made a close study of Canada and know the towns and municipalities and follow them in as close a way as our municipal bond experts follow municipal bonds in this country. In this way they safeguard themselves, and their clients as well; they increase their underwriting profits and give to their clients an investment which yields them very close to 25 per cent better than they can get in the same class of domestic investment.

Canadian Financial Houses Have Branches in New York.

Five or six years ago it was the exception to find a New York or Boston banking house making more or less of a specialty of Canadian provincial and municipal bonds. To-day there are a number of strong houses, specializing in Canadian securities, closely affiliated, as we have stated, with some strong Canadian banking houses. Moreover, strong and reliable Canadian banking houses have established New York and Boston offices, and altogether are distributing millions of Canadian securities in this country. According to reliable authority the United States took only about 1.5 per cent of the Canadian high grade securities issued in 1910. In 1912, we took 11.3 per cent, while in 1914 almost 20 per cent of the Canadian high grade securities issued during the year were taken by American investors.

Since the first of January investment in this country has been going on at an increased scale. In fact, from December 1 to about the first of June it is estimated that the investors of this country had taken between \$80,000,000 and \$99,000,000 of Canadian securities, and thus far this year probably close to 60 per cent of all Canadian issues have been taken in this country.

Value of Canadian Municipals.

This is concrete evidence to show that investors of this country are fast learning to appreciate the value of high grade Canadian securities. The yield from such securities is high but unless the investors of this country thought that the investment was well secured the yield would have little attraction. With the knowledge that the investment is well secured the investment has particular attraction.

We have called the attention of our readers to the opportunity in this class of securities for some time. The opportunity continues. As a matter of fact, after the war closes, holders of the high grade municipals and provincials of Canada are going to receive a big appreciation in the value of their securities, and there will probably come a time when to get securities of the same calibre they would have to pay a price to yield them 1 per cent less than that at which they can get them to-day.

Investors can to-day get the highest grade Canadian municipals to yield them all the way from 5.30 per cent

upwards. Thus practically all of the municipal bonds of Toronto, and there are a number of issues, are selling to yield in the neighborhood of 5.30 per cent. Now as a matter of fact, the bonds of correspondingly strong municipalities in this country are selling to yield only slightly over 4 per cent. Yet, after all, only an imaginary line separates Toronto from this country. It is a city strong in strategic location; is progressive; keeps its debt within conservative limits and has industries which assure its permanency. The same may be said of the bond issues of the City of Montreal, which are selling to yield between 5¼ and 5½ per cent., also the City of Hamilton, Ontario, the securities for which are selling to yield between 5¼ and 5½ per cent., and those of Halifax, Nova Scotia, which are selling to yield 5¼ per cent. So, also, the municipal bonds of Winnipeg are selling to yield around 5¼ per cent. When we get farther west we find the yield increases, but there are a number of unquestionably safe securities selling to yield 6 per cent. or slightly under that.

The investment possibilities in Canada have not been fully appreciated by the investors of this country. There has always been a good selection of our own securities to be had, and as Canada had an ample market for most of her securities in England, there has been no reason why she should come to this country and pay higher rates of interest when she could sell them abroad. The war has changed conditions, and now that the securities are being offered at attractive yields, the investors of this country are absorbing many conservative investments.

Ample Security.

After paying a glowing tribute to Canada's resources and industries, the writer goes on to say:

The foregoing shows the basis of security back of Canadian investments. Other factors which must be considered by purchasers of municipal and provincial bonds are stability of government, and good banking system, good means of transportation and conservative and proper laws for safeguarding such securities. All of these the country to the north appears to have.

There is no need of going into the stability of government, for Canada has shown by her record how stable her government is, and how well protected she is by sound laws, laws in fact somewhat following our own. The people of this country learned more about her banking system through the praise bestowed on it by prominent American bankers during the time Congress was revising our own banking system. The two principal features about the Canadian banking system are the elasticity of the note circulation and solidarity or unity of the system itself. In fact, under Canada's system, all the banks of this country can act together, and have done so in the past. I might write volumes about this system, but suffice it to say the banking system in Canada under which there are only a few principal banks, having many branches and capable of concerted action during a crisis, is considered one of the best and strongest in the whole world. Canada has three great railroad systems, systems which have been helped through government subsidies, and which well compare with our own best railroads. At the same time there is room for a great deal of new railroad building.

Canadian Municipals Well Protected.

Municipal and provincial bond issues are well protected by legal restrictions. Each province, of course, has its own laws in regard to borrowing, but all follow somewhat the same plan. As a matter of fact, however, investors, by purchasing through reliable banking houses, can be certain that the legality of the bonds has been closely investigated. An elaborate code of municipal laws has been enacted, limiting borrowing capacity of municipalities, regulating the imposition and collection of taxes, and pointing out the method of procedure to enforce payment of municipal obligations. A banker who has made a close study of Canadian securities for years makes the following statement:

"The history of Canadian government and municipal bonds amply justifies the confidence so widely reposed in them, for there has never been a default in either principal or interest on any domination or provincial government loan."

Municipal Finance

JAMES MURRAY.

SERIAL BONDS vs. SINKING FUNDS.

As a consequence of Mr. Bradshaw's article on serial bonds, which appeared in the October and November issues of this Journal, and which has since been published in pamphlet form, much discussion has appeared in a contemporary on the merits, or demerits, of the annual instalment plan over the long term issues with a sinking fund. Mayor Hardie, of Lethbridge, has been a doughty critic of the system, not so much of the principle, but rather of the inconvenience sometimes of meeting instalments on serial bonds, and the difficulty of finding purchasers for them. Mr. Hardie states that his city has issued both kinds, and herein lies the crux of the whole question. London, which before the war was the principal market for Canadian municipals, does not recognize serial bonds—probably did not know them—and as no doubt that after the war London will again be our principal lender, because of better terms, the municipal bonds of this country must be issued to suit that market, otherwise there will be no sale. Experience tells us that the British investor is slow to change his methods, largely for the reason that much of the money for investment is derived from estates whose trustees—to lessen their work—are always anxious to get as long terms as possible. In the United States (our present market), on the other hand, investors have been educated to the value of short term bonds by experts like Mr. Bradshaw, who first of all preached the gospel to the municipalities of making their bonds issues only to last the life of the utility for which the money was required, and then to make those bonds repayable in annual instalments. And as the average American investor does not like his money to stay away from his control too long, he was soon convinced of the extra security of such a system, particularly as there is really very little control over municipal finance by either state or federal authorities.

There is no doubt that the annual instalment bond is the best both in principle and practice, provided there is the proper machinery. It keeps borrowing down to actual possibilities, as part of the loan has to be paid back by the actual borrowers, not left for posterity to pay; and it gives an increased confidence among financial houses, which after all are the big factors in bringing the investor and the municipality together.

But there are difficulties in the way of this excellent system, one of which, namely the collection, or non-collection, of taxes, was pointed out in a letter in last month's journal. Indeed, in some municipalities if, during the last year, the annual instalment system was in vogue the situation would have been serious. It seems to us that no system, however good, can really be effective until there is better control over municipal finance. And one does not know of anything better than Local Government Boards on lines of the Local Government Board of England, which Sir Frederick William Taylor advocated ten years ago to the then Minister of Finance. That Sir Frederick is still of the same opinion is illustrated in the following letter to Mr. Thomas Adams, the prime mover in the forming of the

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Civic Improvement League for Canada, which was launched under such splendid auspices last month. The letter, which partially reads as follows, speaks for itself.

Speaking generally, I may say that in my opinion, the outstanding matter calling for municipal reform in this country is with regard to borrowing powers. A good many of our cities, particularly in the west of Canada, have borrowed in excess of their legitimate requirements, with the result that they have accumulated debts at a rate per capita out of proportion to cities in any other portion of the world.

The same condition prevailed in England some forty years ago, with the result that the Government stepped in and created what is known as local loans. Under this plan no city, with the exception of London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Bristol, Birmingham, Leeds, Dublin, Belfast, and possibly one or two others, is permitted to borrow without reference to and through the medium of the local government board. The result has been highly advantageous to the municipalities themselves and to the country as a whole, in addition to which, the rate of interest to the local government board is very much lower than would have been the case had the municipalities been permitted, as formerly, to borrow in competition with each other.

Under the British North America Act the Provinces of Canada alone have jurisdiction in these matters, but it has always seemed to me that the Federal Government should convene the Provinces and bring such influence to bear as they possess to induce them to act in concert in bringing about a reform in this connection that would surely commend itself to all thoughtful people.

MUNICIPALITIES AND THE WAR FUND.

The municipalities that have subscribed out of their Sinking Funds, to the Dominion War Loan are as follows:—

City of Winnipeg	\$500,000
City of Fort William	\$100,000
City of Vancouver	\$ 65,000
City of Ottawa	\$500,000
City of Calgary	\$125,000
City of Saskatoon	\$ 50,000
City of Nelson	\$125,000
Point Grey, B.C.	\$125,000
City of Edmonton	\$100,000
Winnipeg School Board	\$100,000
Saskatoon School Board	\$ 8,000

MUNICIPAL SINKING FUNDS.

Many civic officials cannot get away from the idea that sinking funds are a sort of a reserve to be drawn upon in cases of emergency. They lose sight of the fact that the sinking funds are not the property of the council, but are levied and collected as a guarantee to the bondholder that the bond which he has been induced to purchase will be paid at its maturity. In fact, these funds are actually the property of the bondholder, held in trust for him by the municipality, which is under obligation to collect and maintain them as required by law.—Report of Saskatchewan Local Government Board.

Insurance does not replace burned property. It is merely a system whereby the misfortune or carelessness of one becomes a tax on all in the form of insurance premiums.

"Air, light, highways, and water are the primary conditions of civilization. It is the interest of all that every citizen should have as much of these as he wants."—Fredrick Harrison.

A Cape Town (South Africa) Municipal Loan for \$375,000, bearing interest at 5 per cent was issued last month, and applications for the full amount were speedily received. The loan was for the purpose of electric lighting extensions.

MUNICIPAL DEBENTURE BY-LAWS APPROVED.

For the two weeks ending November 1 the B. C. Inspector of Municipalities, Mr. Robert Baird, has approved and certified the following by-laws:

Penticton Waterworks 30 year 6 per cent debentures, numbered 862 to 873 inclusive, certified October 16.

For the two weeks ending November 15 no by-laws have been approved.

LOAN AT NEW YORK SECURED BY TAX ARREARS.

The city of Calgary has created an innovation in municipal finance by placing a loan for \$2,000,000 in New York, the security for which is a pledge of \$2,800,000 of back taxes which came due to-day in penalty of sale. The city issues three-year treasury notes at 6 per cent. The price at which they were taken was 97. In a report from the U. S. A. Consul at Calgary, to his government, it is stated that under the terms of the loan all arrears of taxes collected after November 21, 1915, are to be remitted by New York City, monthly, and placed in trust account for the redemption of the treasury notes, this fund to bear interest at 4 per cent.

The notes mature as follows: \$600,000 December 1, 1915; \$700,000 December 1, 1916; \$700,000 December 1, 1917. The city reserves the right of calling in all or any part of the second and third maturity on December 1, 1916, or interest paying date thereafter, by giving sixty days' notice; principal and half-yearly interest payable in gold, at the holder's option, in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary or New York. The offer was made by a New York firm, and on the understanding that it is to be given the privilege of securing on the most favorable terms possible the £281,000 to be transferred to London, England, to pay a like amount of treasury notes maturing in London, December 30, 1915, and any profit on account of the favorable rate of exchange is to go to them.

The loan will net the city of Calgary \$1,949,000, and is payable to the city as follows: \$1,400,000 on or before December 30, 1915; \$300,000 thirty days therefrom, and the balance in sixty days therefrom.

DEBT OF 851 AMERICAN CITIES.

According to the report which is being prepared by George Gallarno, chief clerk of the municipal accounting department, of the State of Iowa, municipal expenditures in 851 cities and towns of Iowa increased \$2,255,000 during the fiscal year which ended April 1, 1915, compared with the previous year.

Taxpayers paid \$17,009,000 for the support of municipal government in 851 cities during the last fiscal year. This was slightly less than the expenditures, which totaled \$17,085,000. For the fiscal year previous, the receipts were \$15,267,000, and the expenditures \$14,830,000.

"Canada is well able to finance its part in the war for another three years without imposing unduly heavy increases in taxation. We are confident of our financial stability. We have been borrowing from the United States and Great Britain in the past, but this will not be necessary in the future because of the splendid grain crops present and prospective. Canada is about to launch a \$50,000,000 loan for domestic purposes, all of which will be subscribed by our own people. If we have to borrow later from the United States it will not be because we are poor, but because the balance of trade will be against us."—Sir Edmund Walker, at Windsor.

MONTREAL, QUE.

The assessment returns for 1915 show the following totals: Total valuation, \$836,193,549; exemptions, \$216,236,064; value assessed, \$619,957,485; assessment, 1 per cent., \$6,199,753; school tax, \$2,035,170; sidewalk cleaning, \$147,002; vaults, \$35,726; total amount of rolls, \$8,417,652.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER.

The Hydro-electric contract with the city of Niagara Falls will be for a minimum of 2,000 h.p. at \$11.50 per h.p., and \$1 per h.p. for sinking fund, with a 30-year contract.

The town of Pembroke, Ont., which has already contributed \$100,000 towards the Patriotic and Red Cross Funds, has begun a campaign to raise another \$100,000.

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MUNICIPAL BORROWINGS CRITICIZED.

The Saskatchewan Local Government Board in a recent report says:—

During the past season the Saskatchewan local government board has dealt with a great many applications from local public bodies for authority to borrow by bond, the greatest number coming from rural school districts and rural telephone companies.

The board feels that the present is not an opportune time to increase bond debts, and has followed the principle of restricting borrowing so far as is possible, having due regard for the necessities of the municipalities.

As the population of rural districts continues to spread and increase, the necessity for more schools becomes apparent, and it is absolutely essential that the bond market must be approached for quite large sums for this purpose. A tendency, however, toward unnecessary expenditure on this account has been observed. The board fully appreciates the desire on the part of residents in these districts for as good school facilities for their children as can possibly be obtained. But it is important that no more should be spent than is absolutely necessary for the purpose. The saving of even a few hundred dollars in the cost of schools and equipment, when it is considered that the annual levy for repayment of principal and interest on them must be apportioned among a small number of ratepayers, is a matter of importance.

From observation of the building of a large number of schools in various parts of the province, the board has been able to form a fairly accurate idea as to the class of building required in a given district, and its approximate cost, and endeavors by advice and otherwise to confine the cost of such buildings to a fair and reasonable figure, commensurate with the cases, and has resulted in the saving of many hundreds of dollars throughout the province.

The expenditures of rural telephone companies are based on actual cost of line construction, which is practically a definite quantity. Their estimates are passed upon by the experienced engineers of the department of telephones, by whom the amount actually required is finally determined, so that a tendency toward over-expenditure does not exist, except, perhaps, in some few instances where extensions are planned on routes which are not justified by circumstances, and these it is the policy of the board to discourage.

Careful Financing.

There are a few rural municipalities which, by reason either of careless handling of their affairs or on account of adverse crop conditions in the past, are in poor financial circumstances, having large amounts of taxes outstanding and heavy floating debts. The formation and operation of rural telephone companies in such districts tends to aggravate the difficulties, by adding to the burden which is already more than can be conveniently carried, and the board, while fully recognizing the advantages to be derived from the rural telephone, feels that in such districts its introduction can well be deferred until the municipality finds itself in a better shape financially. In dealing with applications from companies proposing to operate in such municipalities, this idea has been kept well in view, and in withholding its authorizations in such cases the board feels that it is acting in the interest (1) of the ratepayers, whose taxes would be increased at a time when they could ill afford it; (2) of the company in preventing it from embarking on an enter-

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prise, the success of which under the circumstances is far from being assured; and (3) of the investor, who in purchasing these securities is assured not only that their issue is absolutely justified, but that the taxing power behind them will be productive and result in prompt payment of instalments as they become due.

Expenditures Restricted.

Since the outbreak of the war, rural municipalities following the advice of the local government board, have issued very few bonds. Road construction and other works have been restricted as much as possible; and the energies of municipal officials have been centred on the collection of outstanding taxes and otherwise arranging their finances so as to fix their credit on a more attractive basis.

The same remarks apply to village and town municipalities, and the local government board hopes that this policy of marking time and husbanding resources will eventually result in bringing the credit of Saskatchewan municipalities to a high standard, thus facilitating the successful financing of legitimate municipal enterprises at the proper time.

Little new work has been undertaken in the cities, their efforts being chiefly confined to clearing up undertakings commenced when money was easier and interest rates lower.

Municipalities Too Optimistic.

It is useless to ignore the fact that many cities and towns in the west, under the influence of the spirit of excessive optimism which prevailed throughout the country until recently, borrowed more freely than circumstances actually warranted. The results, while not really disastrous are embarrassing, and call for careful conservation of credit, which can only be effected by strict retrenchment and intelligent economy consistent with efficiency. It is pleasing to note that most of the municipalities are facing the situation squarely and with a degree of success which is very gratifying.

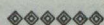
The prompt payment of bond coupons as they become due is a necessity. There have been a number of cases of temporary default, but with the excellent crops just harvested, these are now being rapidly cleared up. There is no doubt but that the majority of these defaults were caused by the crop failure in parts of the province in 1914. At the same time it is quite certain that many of them are attributable to poor business methods, and often to unpardonable carelessness. As proof of this, it has been observed that some of the most glaring cases of default have occurred in districts which, owing to favorable circumstances, should be in the best condition financially, while on the other hand districts which had suffered heavily from drought, succeeded by the use of business-like methods in meeting their bond liabilities with only slight delay.

Prices and Sales.

Prices received by local authorities for their bonds have been on the whole satisfactory. A slump occurred immediately after the outbreak of the war, but the market quickly recovered and has since been as favorable from the point of view of the municipality as can be expected.

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SUDBURY, ONT.

\$50,000 5 per cent 20-years, to Messrs. C. H. Burgess and Company, Toronto.

EDMONTON, ALTA.

To C. H. Burges & Co., Toronto, \$9,800 7 per cent 10 instalment school district debentures recently offered by the Department of Education.

WELLAND COUNTY, ONT.

The Canada Bond Corporation of Toronto have purchased \$100,000 5 per cent Good Roads bonds of the county of Welland, Ont., due October 1, 1945.

WOODROW, S.D., SASK.

Bonds awarded.—To W. L. McKinnon & Co., Toronto, \$5,000 7½ p.c. 10-year bonds.

MONTREAL, P. Q.

N. W. Harris & Co., Inc., of Montreal, and C. Meredith & Co., Limited, Montreal, have purchased from the Bank of Montreal, acting as fiscal agents for the city, the new issue of \$1,000,000, City of Montreal, 5 per cent bonds, due November 1, 1930.

The proceeds of the issue will be used by the city to pay for the share of proprietors for the construction of sewers which will be carried out throughout the winter.

BRANDON, MAN.

The Imperial Bank of Canada has come to an agreement with the city of Brandon to take over \$120,000 of city debentures on a 6¼ per cent basis. The parcels consist of \$80,000 30 year 5 per cent, and \$40,000 40-year 4 per cent.

VANCOUVER, B.C.

... According to a statement issued by the accounting department to the Vancouver civic finance committee, the civic expenses for the first nine months of this year have been cut below those of last year for the same period by \$450,000.

REGINA, SASK.

The city, in accordance with the new act, advertised for sale a number of city lots for arrears of taxes. This notice brought into the city office in cash, in payment of arrears, before the day of sale, approximately \$80,000.

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SURPLUS OF \$35,000 FOR TORONTO.

A surplus of \$35,000 has been handed over to the City Treasurer of Toronto by the Canadian National Exhibition Board.

DEBT OF NEW YORK.

According to Senator Bennet, the debt of New York is \$1,573,174,796, or \$500,000,000 more than the debt of the State of which it is part.

U. S. A. MUNICIPAL BONDS.

More American state and municipal bonds were sold during the past six months than in any other half-year period, with the exception of the first six months of 1914.

TORONTO'S FINANCIAL STANDING.

According to City Treasurer Patterson, who at the request of the Mayor, has just issued a statement of the city's financial standing, Toronto's gross debt is now \$83,783,847, and that sinking funds, cash on hand and investments amounting to \$17,379,007 place the net debt at \$66,404,840, an increase of approximately \$6,000,000 since the beginning of the year.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

A statement prepared by Alderman Kellington, chairman of the finance committee of New Westminster, shows that the total civic tax receipts so far this year amounted to \$282,403, as compared with \$296,701 for the corresponding period last year. Alderman Kellington stated that the various civic departments with the exception of the parks committee had expended less than their estimates and that there had been a drop in the receipts, which totalled for the nine months \$254,055, as against an estimate of \$267,850.

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RESURFACING OLD WATER-BOUND MACADAM STREETS WITH SHEET ASPHALT.

The demand for the repairing of worn-out water-bound macadam streets with a type of pavement which would withstand motor as well as horse-drawn traffic and still come within the cost of the ordinary bituminous macadam pavement, is a problem which the city of New Haven has had to face and which we are working out at the present time.

During the season of 1913 it was decided, as an experiment, to resurface High Street, an old water-bound macadam street, with sheet asphalt, and to use it as a criterion for future resurfacing with this type of pavement. This pavement of 5,000 square yards has stood up so well for the past two years, under severe conditions of climate and traffic, that it is considered nearly as good as the same type of pavement on a concrete base laid the same year.

The contract called for the street to be scarified, gutters thoroughly cleaned, and wherever necessary blue-stone headers to be put in on the street line of intersecting streets. All manholes were raised 3 inches above the average contour of the street. In approaching a catch basin, the macadam for a distance of from 3 to 5 feet out from the sides as well as from the front of the pan was removed to a depth of 3 inches. In some instances it was necessary to take out the macadam to a greater depth, fill in with crushed stone and then thoroughly tamp until the proper sub-grade was attained. This method was also pursued with regard to crosswalks wherever they were too high above the general crown of the street. All cobble gutters were left in place, excepting where they conflicted with grades established for new gutters. In such instances they were treated in a manner similar to the crosswalks.

All depressions not over 2½ inches in depth below the average contour of the street were filled in with binder, and wherever the depressions exceeded 2½ inches they were filled in with crushed stone to the required grade and thoroughly rolled.

The gutters were determined by averaging the centre line of the street, adding 3 inches (the thickness of the pavement at that point) and then figuring a cross pitch for one-half the width of the street at the rate of ¾ inch per foot. In some cases this cross pitch was exceeded and in some it was not quite so much, but it served to give the finished pavement a very good crown.

The resurfacing proper called for 1½-inch binder course and 1½-inch wearing surface. The extra binder required to fill the depressions was paid for by the ton. This extra tonnage was determined by multiplying the yardage of the street when finished by 135 pounds per square yard (using 90 pounds per square yard for 1-inch thickness of close binder) and subtracting this amount from the total tonnage of binder turned out at the plant. The wearing surface is composed of a mixture of local sand, Portland cement filler and asphalt, with a penetration of 55 at 77 deg. F., under 100 grains for 5 seconds.

The work cost \$1.09 per square yard for the pavement proper and \$6.50 a ton for the extra binder. This season the city has let contracts to the amount of 50,000 square yards for this type of pavement, and is contemplating more yardage later on. The prices for the pavement laid this year are considerably lower than for 1913, and for two lettings are as follows: 82 cents per square yard for pavement, \$5.40 per ton for extra binder; 72 cents per square yard for pavement, \$4.75 per ton for extra binder. The contracts will run about 25,000 square yards each. The increased cost per square yard of pavement, above the bid price per square yard, due to extra binder and stone, averaged about 14 cents.

Another experiment is being attempted this season with dirt streets. We have taken Christopher Street, a street of very light traffic, and subgraded it to a depth of 6 inches. On this was placed 3 inches of crushed stone, and after thoroughly rolling it, a 3-inch surface of asphalt was applied. At present it is impossible to express an opinion as to what might be expected of this pavement.

This type of pavement for resurfacing old water-bound macadam streets is without a doubt one of the best, considering the initial cost and the guarantee of five years for the life of the pavement under which the contract is let. This method of resurfacing old water-bound macadam streets, instead of laying the asphalt on a 6-inch concrete base, has meant a saving to the city of from \$25,000 to \$30,000.—American City.

UNEMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYABLE.

"It is one of our popular pastimes to bait the police force. Being an intensely democratic people, we encourage our legislators to pass an immense mass of food laws which we forthwith proceed to ignore. A bad law is a tempting instrument of blackmail, and if the police try to enforce it that is the inference most generally drawn. The policeman has plenty of faults and deficiencies, in which respect he is strikingly like the rest of us.

But he does a good deal of hard and thankless work in his hours of duty, and also something on the side, as, for instance, the committee of five inspectors which reported recently on the problem of unemployment in New York. It need hardly be said this is a topic which bears upon all corporate industry and is one which has never been courageously faced. This report is one of the best of the kind which has ever been made. It deals with the matter with humanity and understanding.

Its most important conclusion is the division of the idlers into unemployed and unemployable. Getting work for the unemployed, except in the most depressed trade conditions, has not been found by the police to be an insoluble problem. The man who is willing to work, and able to work, can find employment of some sort if he will put his pride in his pocket and take what he can get while he keeps his eyes open for something better.

But the real problem is the unemployable. To a large extent he is a degenerate, a victim of drugs or alcohol, mentally or physically defective, and not worth any man's money. Moreover, the unemployed tend to drift into the unemployable class. The habit of idleness, even where it involves living upon the fringe of starvation, grows upon the man until his faculty of application becomes trophied. He professes to be looking for work, but it is only that he can dodge quickly if he sees any.

When the police force is as perfect as its critics demand, we shall all be so perfect ourselves that we shall not need policemen. But in the coming winter the annual migration of tramps and wastrels to New York City will once more raise the old problem and the old agitation. It is not a problem to be settled by the policeman's club, but there is an urgent call for drastic treatment. Without saying that the habitual unemployable should be treated like the habitual criminal, society has some coercive rights in the matter.

Perhaps those people who are interested in this most vital problem will read the Police Report, and see if they cannot devise a broad and humane remedy, devoid of sentimentality and based upon common sense.—Wall Street Journal.

RECREATION FOR ADULTS.

"Within recent years there has been a movement, particularly in Europe, and the United States, generally referred to as the 'Recreation Movement.' It has had much to do with the wonderful progress that has been made with respect to supervised playgrounds for children, but its field is much greater than that, and concerns play for adults as well. It has had its origin through recognition of the fact that modern social and industrial conditions are resulting in a suppression or a perversion of the 'play spirit,' and that this spells danger for the nation as well as for the individual. These adverse conditions exist both in the city and in the country.

To many people in cities, life means long hours of labour amidst the dust and whirl of wheels, an excessive nervous strain, and joyless, monotonous employment; to many of them life is a grind, a round of labour, a season of care, on top of which are conditions of overcrowding. The dangers that threaten, the evils which have been constantly increasing in industrial centres, are a degeneration in physical type, a deterioration in mental and moral quality. The natural course under the existing conditions leads to the development of a dull, soulless, unimaginative people. For instance, it is well known that in the slums of English cities there has grown up, as a result of modern conditions, a well recognized type weak, hopeless, without initiative, energy, or self-respect, which does not want to secure work and which has no power of "sticking to" work if it is secured—a type which is a menace to the race. Conditions in Canada have not reached the point that they have in the huge industrial centres of England; but England's experience constitutes a warning to Canada to make provisions now to guard against similar misfortune."

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In an early number of this Journal will appear a pen sketch by Ajax of J. S. WOODSWORTH, of Winnipeg, the secretary of the Canadian Welfare League, and founder of the Peoples' Forums, which are rapidly spreading over Canada.

ROAD CONVENTION.

The American Road Builders' Association has decided to hold its next convention and exhibition during the month of February, 22-25. The place of meeting will be Pittsburg.

STRATFORD, ONT.

About 6,160 lineal feet of pavement and 18,700 feet of sidewalks have been constructed this year at Stratford. The amount is less than last year owing chiefly to the unfavorable weather conditions during these summer months.

DRY CLEANING.

The dry cleaning method of keeping paved streets in order, has been adopted in many cities of the United States, and its numerous supporters among city engineers generally have made it a subject of considerable interest. Dry cleaning is cheaper and it obviates the slipperiness of wet pavements. In Vancouver, where the system is in use, the figures show a cost of 16½ cents per 1,000 square yards.

GOOD ROADS IN ONTARIO.

E. A. James, C.E., engineer for the York County Highways Commission, reports that there are 110 miles in the good roads system of South York. This mileage is spread over ten highways, radiating from the city of Toronto. These highways form the connecting link between the good roads system of Peel, Simcoe, North York and Ontario countries with the city of Toronto. Seventy-six miles of the system have been completed. Forty-two thousand dollars has been spent in culverts and bridges. Five hundred and fifty thousand dollars has been spent in highways.

GOOD ROADS IN QUEBEC.

The Provincial Government of Quebec is expected to undertake the construction of an improved highway between Shawinigan Falls, Grand Mere and Three Rivers. Five large concerns have already invested a capital of nearly \$25,000,000 in the industrial centres of Shawinigan Falls and Grand Mere. These towns are growing rapidly and they need a good road to connect them with Three Rivers and Montreal and Quebec, by the way of the new Montreal-Quebec road, which is almost finished.

TORONTO-OSHAWA ROAD.

Mr. W. A. McLean, Provincial Engineer of Highways for Ontario, recommends for the proposed 26-mile Toronto-Oshawa road an 18-ft. macadam road with 4-ft. gravel shoulders on either side. A maximum grade of 6 per cent is recommended, this work costing about \$128,000. For about 6½ miles eastward from Toronto the Kingston Road, which is the only right-of-way to be considered, is in fair condition, and only requires surfacing; estimated to cost \$26,000. The macadamizing of the remaining 19½ miles will cost in the neighborhood of \$156,000, bringing the total estimated cost to \$310,000 for the 26 miles.

EDMONTON, ALTA.

The city of Edmonton has been given consideration to the question of providing a supply of natural gas, which has been discovered in the vicinity within the city for industrial, municipal, and domestic use. The proposal is to construct a pipe line from one of the proven fields, or to prospect certain probable fields in closer proximity. A by-law proposing to empower the council to expend \$30,000 on exploration work was recently defeated by a vote of the burgesses, since when several private concerns have entered into negotiation with the council with a view to obtain a franchise.

WINNIPEG, MAN.

Among the many propositions in the air for the supply of natural gas to various cities in the West, there is one which aims at supplying Winnipeg from wells south of Lethbridge, Alta. This undertaking would involve pipe lines over 700 miles in length.

WATER CHLORINATION.

Taste Not Due to Excess of Chlorine.

There seems to be considerable uncertainty concerning the chlorination of the city water, many people believing that the chloride of lime is added as a powder and only on certain days. Such is not the case.

A weighed amount of chloride of lime containing about one-third of available chlorine soluble, and about two-thirds lime insoluble, is stirred by mechanical means with a definite volume of water for five hours. The solution thus obtained is allowed to settle twelve hours. All of the lime separates out and is discharged into the sewer. The clear solution containing the chlorine is run into storage tanks, and subsequently a measured quantity flows into the water through a valve, which cannot be opened or closed accidentally, thus avoiding error. This solution has been running into the city water every minute of each day during the last four and a half years.

Whether the necessary amount of chlorine for safety is present or not is ascertained by a simple food-proof chemical test taken each hour. By this method the operator knows whether he is getting efficiency. No more chlorine than is actually necessary for safety's sake enters the water.

The taste which some times develops in the city water is not due to carelessness, but due to certain organic matter which is present in some types of water, that vary according to the wind. Chlorine "hooks up" or combines with this organic matter, forming other chemical compounds which give the taste. This taste, which may be fishy, weedy or chemical, although disagreeable is entirely harmless.

The average dosage for Toronto water is only 90 pounds of chlorine to 450,000,000 pounds of water, the usual daily quantity.—Health Bulletin, Toronto.

TELEPHONE INSTALLED ON DESERT TO AID MOTORISTS.

The road between Delta and Grand Junction, Colo., crosses a desert some 25 or 30 miles in extent and on this stretch there is no habitation of any kind. The road is not in very good condition and motorists have had a great deal of trouble.

Upon the order of the Grand Junction Motor Club a telephone has been installed on this road for the convenience of motorists in trouble. The new road maps show the location of this telephone and motorists who have trouble now on the desert can call help from either Grand Junction or Delta if they are able to reach this telephone. The instrument is of a special weatherproof type.

NEW HOTEL IN EDMONTON.

The latest addition to the great chain of Canadian hotels built by the Grand Trunk System is "The Macdonald" in the City of Edmonton, Alberta. This beautiful house, which overlooks the valley of Western Canada's greatest river, the Saskatchewan, is described and pictured in a new booklet issued this week by the railway company.

In point of situation, beauty of design and furnishing The Macdonald ranks with its two famous sister hotels, "The Chateau Laurier," Ottawa, and "The Fort Garry," Winnipeg. It has been specially planned to appeal to the commercial man as well as to the tourists attracted to the great scenic territory along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, a territory which includes Jasper, and Mount Robson parks,—the Dominion's newest and loveliest National playgrounds.

Travellers will find in the new hotel not only elegant accommodation but the high standard of service which characterizes all the hotels of the Grand Trunk System.

Copies of this booklet can be obtained on application.

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Road Engineers are always faced with the two-fold problem:—

- 1.—The prevention of dust.
- 2.—The maintenance of roads to meet the new conditions.

Much attention has been given to the subject and various materials have been used, but engineers have long sought for a material, which, while acting as a dressing in preventing the dust, would also add to the durability and wearing quality of the road.

The best municipal engineers of today are using "FLUXPHALTE" for the following reasons:—

"Fluxphalte" is an Asphalt Macadam Binder, produced from the vast natural oil resources of Mexico, by refiners who have spent years of careful investigation in perfecting the methods of refining, aided by the best available experts.

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and has demonstrated its superiority over all other dressings in the following points:

PERMANENCE.

Has remained a carpet on the road surface long after tar, applied at the same time had disappeared.

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This bituminous carpet on the road surface is plastic, resilient, silent, and non-slippery.

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It penetrates the road surface and binds the metal.

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It contains no poisonous elements to contaminate streams or rivers, with consequent danger to fish life.

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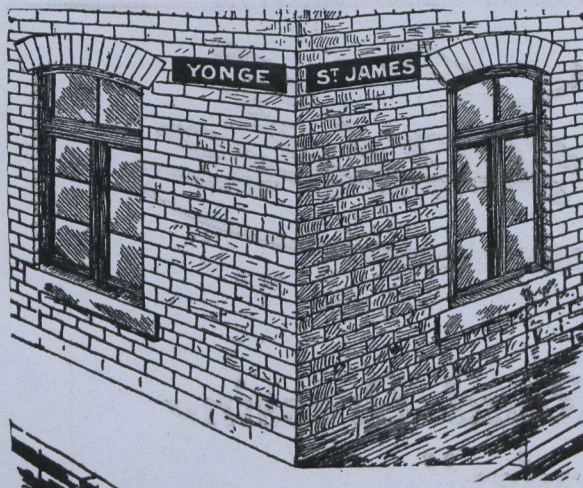
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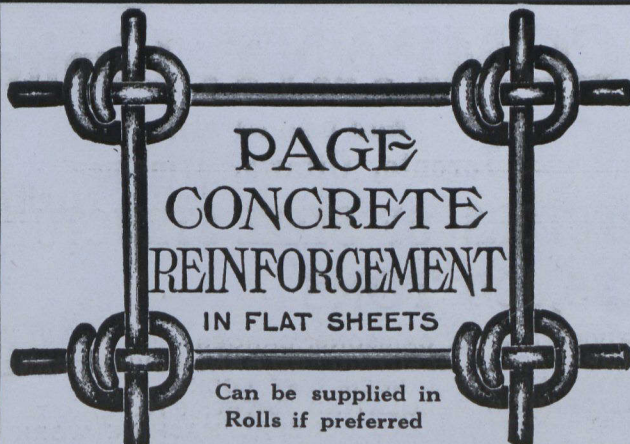
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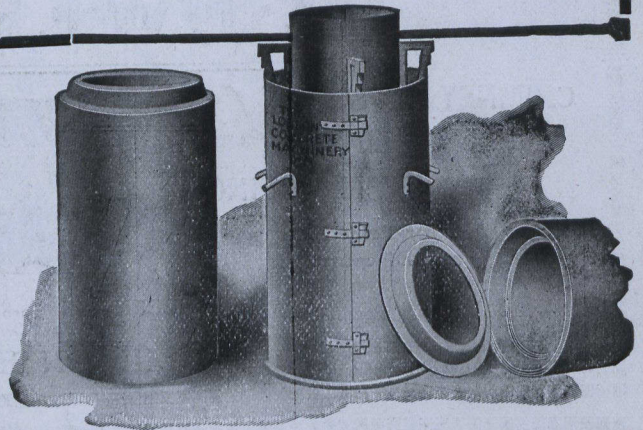
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