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Canadian Automobile Federation

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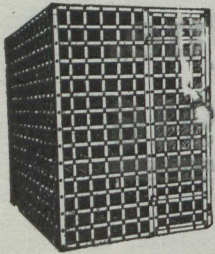
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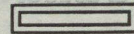
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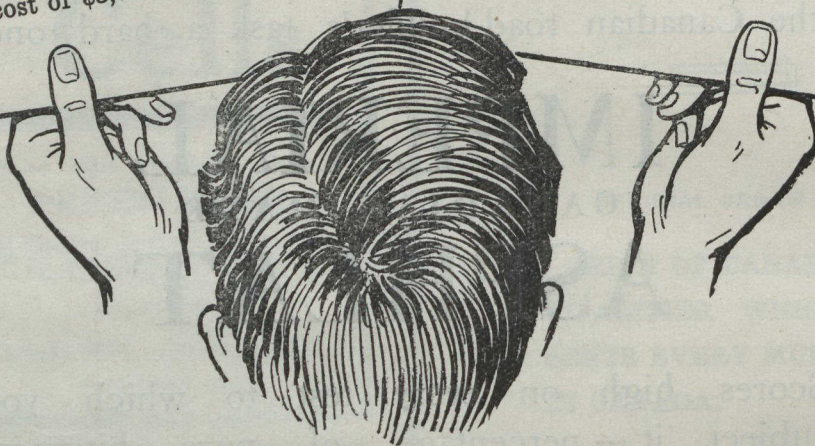
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CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL

(A REVIEW OF CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP)

Coristine Building, Montreal

To the Citizens of Canada,

For twelve years the CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL has been very quietly, but consistently building up the civic life of this country, and though we have not by any means brought about the consummation of our ambition because of the limitations of our operations, we believe we have raised the standard of municipal ideas.

In the past we have confined our work to the official side of civics, but the most terrible tragedy in the history of mankind has put a new meaning on the citizenship of Canada. New ideals have been set up, and a broader conception of the responsibility of citizenship has been forced upon us. This has been met by thousands of Canada's best citizens taking a keener interest in the things that count--social welfare, city planning, education, public health, child welfare and decent government.

Such propoganda require a medium of thought and activity and expression, and we claim that the following list of special articles which have appeared in our Journal is an indication that we are adapting ourselves to the new conditions.

We have a great work ahead of us which can only be done by the loyal support of the citizens of Canada. We have faith that the help is forthcoming, but we do suggest that a dollar subscription to our office will do more to bring about the consummation than written sympathy

THE MANAGEMENT

A PARTIAL LIST OF SPECIAL ARTICLES THAT HAVE APPEARED IN THE CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL

- | | |
|--|--|
| Municipal Taxation (Dr. Adam Shortt.) | A Citizens' Association (Olivar Asselin.) |
| Commission Government a Failure (Colin Mackay.) | City Planning and Real Estate (George Ford.) |
| Cheap Houses (G. Frank Beer.) | Children and Citizenship (Ex-Mayor Estee.) |
| After the War (W. D. Lighthall, F.R.S.C.) | Rural Citizenship. |
| Citizenship and Patriotism. | Civic Instruction in Canadian Schools. |
| The Price of Citizenship (Frederick Wright.) | Civic Government Something More Than Business. |
| The Awful Price of War. | Immigration after the War (Mrs. Seymour Carpenter.) |
| Wholesale City Beautifying (M. Rathburn.) | Civic Patriotism (George Washington Stephens.) |
| Has the Board of Control System Failed? | Road to Civic Success (Mayor of Capetown, South Africa.) |
| Bureaus of Municipal Research. | Civics in our Schools (J. A. Liverson.) |
| What is Woman Suffrage? (James Murray.) | Canons of Municipal Finance (J. Morley Wickett.) |
| The Truth About Woman Suffrage (Agnes Chesley.) | Develop the People (Dr. C. C. James.) |
| Unemployment Problem in Canada (Dr. H. L. Brittain.) | City Governance (R. O. Wynne-Roberts.) |
| School Buildings (Raymond Unwin.) | The City Manager (Lt.-Col. Graham.) |
| Transportation in a Large City (R. Macleod, R.E.) | Human Factor in City Government (John H. Roberts.) |
| Illiteracy in the Province (C. H. B. Hillwell.) | Our Duty to Returned Soldiers. |
| Prisons or Playgrounds (Sydney Candy.) | Uniformity in Municipal Accounting (H. J. Ross, F.I.A.) |
| Prevention of Pauperism (Mrs. Hamer Jackson.) | Sir George Cartier (John Boyd.) |
| Moving Pictures a Factor in Civic Life (O. G. Cocks.) | Unemployment in Canada. |
| Municipal Ownership Succeeds (Ex-Mayor Martin.) | The Municipal Theatre. |
| Patriotism and the Job (J. C. Ross.) | The Playground Movement in Canada. |
| Practical Application of City Planning (Thomas Adams.) | The Juvenile Court (Judge Choquet.) |
| Reconstruction (Sir John Willison.) | A Juvenile City in Canada. |
| Signs of the Times (S. Baker.) | The Garden City of Poland. |
| Some Notes on Municipal Finance (Thomas Bradshaw.) | Discrimination Against the Hindus. |
| Street Improvement by Trees. | Housing of the Foreign Population (Mayor Young.) |
| Value of a Topographical Survey (J. W. Sharley.) | Town Planning and Housing (Commissioner Yorath.) |
| Unemployment in American Cities (Francis Keller.) | Human Waste in Modern Life (J. S. Woodsworth.) |
| An Employment Bureau (D. Chisholm.) | Proposed Garden Suburbs in Canada. |
| Employment for Returned Soldiers. | Government by Elective Commission (C. H. May.) |
| Forum for Civic Discussion (Dr. W. H. Atherton.) | Canadian Municipal Progress (Theo. A. Hunt, K.C.) |
| Germany and Town Planning. | Unemployed and Unemployable. |
| An Old Grammar School (Stella.) | Municipal Ownership in England. |
| Government Labour Bureaus (Miss St. John Wileman.) | Tenements in Ancient Rome. |
| Garden Clubs (Mayor Walters.) | Municipal Markets (D. E. Mackenzie.) |
| High Standard of Civic Life. | Prison Reform in Ontario (Hon. W. J. Hanna.) |
| Hygiene vs. Poverty. | Public Service or Private Interests. |
| The Ideal City (Late Canon Barnett.) | English and Continental Town Planning. |
| Municipal Life in India (Hon. T. N. Nair.) | Municipal Housing vs. Slums. |
| | Western Civic Progress (Deputy Minister J. N. Bayne.) |

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Some Cost Figures from England—

Some of the most important road statistics yet gathered have been compiled by J. A. Brodie, an eminent engineer of Liverpool, England, and are published in the annual report of the New York State Highway Commission.

Under a traffic of 120,000 tons per yard width per year, Mr. Brodie reports that in his experience waterbound macadam will last one year, tar-sprayed macadam two years, and pitch macadam eleven years. The annual cost per square yard, including capital charges, is 18c. for waterbound macadam, 12c. for tar-sprayed macadam, 6.6c. for pitch macadam. One cent expended on waterbound macadam yields 3.8 ton miles of traffic per yard width; one cent expended on tar-sprayed macadam yields 5.7 tons miles, and on pitch macadam, 10.3 ton miles. Expressed in another way, the cost per 100 ton miles of traffic is 26.4 for waterbound macadam, 18c. for tar-sprayed macadam, 9.6c. for pitch macadam.

Similar results are exhibited by Engineer Cullan of Belfast, Ireland.

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THE CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL

A REVIEW OF CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

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Official Organ of the Union of Canadian Municipalities

"Municipal from cover to cover"

Circulates in every city, town and village

Vol. XII

JANUARY, 1915

No 1

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A Real Preparedness

"Get ready, commence getting ready now; this is the opportunity of a generation, perhaps of a century . . . this all means not the smallest relaxation of our efforts to win the war and usher in this happy day of opportunity. If any man must choose, at any moment, between striking a blow to defeat the enemy and taking a thought for the morrow of peace, by all means strike the blow and let the thought go, but we surely have time for both, and if our preparations for peace be intelligent and earnest we will in a few years, be better off than we ever were.

"The chance that is coming will not be repeated. We expect to win this war so completely that it will be the last for generations. The lines upon which the peaceful development of the world will proceed will be fixed in the first few months after the signing of peace, and we will certainly not get our fair share unless we have made previous painstaking preparation."

So spoke the Hon. Robert Rogers at the Annual Convention of the Manitoba "Good Roads" Association. The words are worthy both of the man and the medium through which the message was given to Canada.

If her public men are big enough to utilize in the broadest spirit the great opportunities given by her vast natural resources and geographical situation, Canada will be one of the few nations able to turn the consequences of this disastrous war to her advantage. And she will have every right to do so. She has sent and is sending her best men, and many of her best women, to the firing line and her people have shown a real spirit of financial patriotism, which must have opened the eyes of our enemies and given confidence to our statesmen. But if Canada is to become the leader in nation building her citizens would have her, they must prepare now. This country has the opportunity of bringing to its

broad acres the large part of the British army now serving in Flanders, an army composed of men who are trained for outdoor work and made up of the best brawn and brain of the old country — provided she is prepared to receive them. Canada certainly will receive, and without invitation, a large immigration from the Latin and Slav countries of Europe and unless we secure a fair proportion of those Anglo-Saxons — for whom Australia and New Zealand are making a bid—we will soon have a larger foreign population than British. And the problem even to-day is how to Canadianize our foreign element. In addition to this new immigration, there will be the problem of securing work for our own returned soldiers (though from replies to our appeal to the municipalities there is an assurance that they will be taken care of), as well as the replacing of the present munition workers. Taking the basis of supply and demand the problem is no small one.

It seems to us that it will be the business of our leaders to create the demand by propagating ways and means for a larger and better cultivation of our lands and by finding larger markets for our products and manufactures; and to create the machinery by which this large influx of human beings can be intelligently directed. The day is over for crude immigration methods — from which our over-crowded cities are suffering today. It is only an enlightened determination on the part of its people that will make Canada the proud country of progress. Will they rise to the occasion? We believe they will if our public men will set the example.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES.

On another page we publish an article under the title of "Child Saving in Ontario" which is not only interesting to the reader but instructive as showing the splendid results of the work of one man who is in earnest. For twenty-four years Mr. J. J. Kelso, of Toronto has given of his best for the amelioration of the sad conditions under which too many of Canada's children live—or rather did until this lover of "Kiddies" took them under his efficient care. Through Mr. Kelso's instrumentality over 250 Children's Aid Societies have been established in Canada.

One other point in the article to which we would draw our reader's attention is the efficient legislation enacted in Ontario for dealing with the care of the child—legislation which would be well followed by other Provinces as the means of eliminating that carelessness of child life which is too much in evidence in this country.

THE LATE ALD. S. MORLEY WICKETT.

It was with a shock that his many friends heard of the death of Ald. S. Morley Wickett of Toronto, from a sharp attack of heart failure.

Dr. Wickett was rightly termed a "devoted and unselfish servant" of the Queen City; but he was something more. He was an inspiration to the many causes he was associated with for the inculcation of the ideals of Canadian citizenship. Gifted with a love for his fellow men he chose to give every moment he could spare from his business to their welfare. He even introduced his ideals into his workshop and proved to the world that business integrity and public honour could be worked together—one the counterpart of the other. Essentially an educated man (after graduating at Toronto University he studied at the Universities of Vienna, Liepsic, Berlin, Paris and Cambridge). Dr. Wickett was able to bring to bear on every question he touched, a culture that took it out of the mundane. This characteristic was particularly noticeable in Alderman Wickett's connection with municipal affairs. To him civic government was the basis upon which all government must be built, and if the foundation was rotten the superstructure, however good in itself, would soon topple over. Hence his splendid fight for civic reform. As a member of the Executive of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, his keen and analytical mind was invaluable in the elimination of the spurious in municipal government and his independence of thought gained him the respect of all. Had Morley Wickett lived he would have been in the vanguard of Canada's sons who are to solve her problems as a consequence of this war.

His last act was in accord with his life—always thinking and working for others—for at the time of his death he was assisting in the preparing of Xmas. gifts to send to his classmates who are serving across the seas, and with whom he would dearly have longed to be.

Canada has truly lost one of her best and our sympathies go out to his widow and children.

THE NEW COUNCILS

With the coming of the New Year, new municipal councils will come into being; most of them to face special difficulties as a consequence of the war. During the last year the councils generally have done splendidly. They have met their obligations in a way almost unbelievable twelve months ago. By economy on the one hand and a strong reliance in local patriotism on the other, the municipal debts have been paid and the many extra demands—such as the Patriotic Fund, Red Cross, etc.—have been more than met. But with the coming year greater obligations with lesser resources will have to be taken up that will mean a greater mental strain on the personnel of the local powers that be. The local public works must be carried on with very little money and preparation made for the new Canada that is bound to be the outcome of the war, so that civic administrations for 1916 will be thoroughly tested, both in capacity and perseverance. We have every confidence that the councils will rise to their opportunity of showing their worth to their respective municipalities, and our good wishes go out to them in their difficult programme.

ERRATIC CRITICISM.

We have been taken to task by the Editor of Canadian Finance for our statement in last month's issue that Judge Robson backed down in his criticism of Winnipeg's finances when confronted by Mayor Waugh. The Editor enclosed Judge Robson's address as published in his own excellent journal, together with his editorial comment. While we frankly recognize that the Judge—as a citizen—had a perfect right to criticize the administration of the city, provided his facts were correct and he made proper use of his data, it is very evident from his own address that he did not. The danger of such criticism, particularly by a man of Judge Robson's standing, is that an erroneous conception of the civic administration is spread outside the city's limits. In comparison with any city on this continent we have no hesitation in saying that the administration of the City of Winnipeg stands high. It has been fortunate in having for some time a succession of mayors, including the present occupant of the mayoral chair, whose names are known amongst the big men of Canada, so that while criticism of municipal councils is alright in its way—indeed desirable at times—the critic should always have at heart the city's good—which is certainly not in condemning everything to get at some shortcoming, small in itself, and which could be taken up privately and the wrong adjusted.

SENATOR C. P. BEAUBIEN.

The Hon. Charles P. Beaubien, the new senator from Montreal has been solicitor to the City of Outremont, P.Q., for some years, of which city his brother, Mr. Joseph Beaubien, is mayor.

Whatever we at home may do; however much we concede; whatever time we work; and whatever money we lose, we can never do as much as the lads at the front.—Will Crooks, M.P.

NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF UNITED STATES.

At the twenty-first annual convention of the National Municipal League, held in Dayton, Ohio, November 17-19, the League's Committee on Municipal Programme submitted in pamphlet form its draft of a model city charter. After careful discussion by the convention, a number of the recommendations were approved by those present, and the rest were referred back to the committee with the understanding that the revised charter in its entirety would be submitted to the whole membership for an advisory referendum vote.

"Municipal Progress in Twenty-One Years" was the theme of the annual message of the League's retiring President, William Dudley Foulke.

The important items on the programme included Secretary Woodruff's address on "The American Conception of the City"; papers on "Progress of Home Rule in Ohio," by Mayo Fesler, Secretary, Cleveland Civic League; "Civic Education," by Charles W. Dabney, President, University of Cincinnati, and Dr. E. A. Fitzpatrick, of Madison, Wis.; and "Proportional Representation in Ashtabula," by Prof. A. R. Hatton, of Cleveland. There was also a joint session with the City Manager Association, in which the subject for discussion was "Professional Standards for the New Profession of City Manager."

The sessions of the Civic Secretaries Committee were attended by a live group of secretaries of important city clubs, and civic organizations, and resulted in the development and interchange of many practical ideas.

The officers of the National Municipal League are:

President.

Lawson Purdy, New York.

Vice-Presidents.

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Secretary.

Clinton Rogers Woodruff.

Treasurer.

George Burnham, Jr.

In the Council of thirty-nine are W. D. Lighthall, K.C., Hon. Sec. Union of Canadian Municipalities, and Controller Spence, of Toronto.

CITY MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION.

Seventeen city managers discussed the problems of their new profession at the second annual convention of the City Managers' Association, held in Dayton, November 15-17. Various municipal problems were presented in a series of papers, followed by discussions from the floor. The most interesting feature of the programme was the "round table," comprising reports of actual accomplishments from the city manager cities.

CHILD LABOUR.

How much child labour is there in your town? Do you know?

Do you know what legal right the small boy on the corner has to sell you a paper? Is he a licensed vendor? Is his schooling going on in spite of his selling?

Do you know how many children work in factories or stores or offices in your town? Do you know during what hours they work? Do you know how many children work at fruit stands, in bowling alleys, at soda fountains, as messengers, as delivery boys?

Do you know how your state child labor law is enforced? How your juvenile courts enforce it? How your children's societies enforce it? Do you know whether the factory inspector, board of education or superintendent of schools issues work permits in your town? Do you know what a work permit looks like?

Child labour has come to be too much an abstract problem with us. We are apt to regard it as a Cause—something uplifting and worthy, but remote from us. We may believe in the principles of child labour reform, but we are not likely to apply them to the children who live about us.—Helen Dwight.

BOOMING BY MOTION PICTURES.

The Georgia Chamber of Commerce has prepared a motion picture film approximately 5,000 feet in length, which is being used in Georgia and throughout the United States to arouse interest in the state of Georgia. It requires two hours to run the film.

There are presented views of public buildings in the state, including its education institutions and other public enterprises; views of the state's mineral resources, and of its apple and peach orchards, watermelon fields, pecan groves, sugar cane fields, corn fields, and hog and cattle ranches; views of the state's waterpower development, of its modern cities, of its timber wealth, the latter through views of pine forests, hardwood forests, manufacturing plants and shipping scenes; facts about the climate of the state, demonstrated by official figures of the Weather Bureau; views relating to the water supply from springs, rivers and artesian wells, which insure the health of Georgia's people; views of many places of historic interest in the state; views of scenes in the mountains of North Georgia, on the sea coast, etc.; views showing road conditions in the state; also graphic pictures of the cotton industry, from its planting and chopping time through the various processes to the finished product of the Georgia mills.

The pictures have much life detail in them, showing actual work in progress. Two films were made, one to be run in all the motion picture houses of Georgia, to acquaint the people of the state with its resources and to arouse civic pride. The other film will be accompanied by a lecturer throughout the East and West. It is planned to show this not only to large audiences, but also at private exhibitions, and to select groups of financiers and business people, to impress them with the many opportunities Georgia offers to outside capital for investment. It will also be shown to groups of especially invited farmers, to secure, if possible, an increase in the agricultural population of the state.

ALBERT M. SMITH.

DOCTORS AS MAYORS.

The municipalities of Saskatchewan seem to have taken up the suggestion made some time ago, that the cities should elect professional mayors. All the mayors elected in Saskatchewan, according to press despatches, are members of the medical profession. The list follows:

Regina, Dr. Cowan; Saskatoon, Dr. Young; Moose Jaw, Dr. Pascoe; Swift Current, Dr. Hutchison; Prince Albert, Dr. Knox; Grenfell, Dr. Argue; Quill Lake, Dr. Bannatyne; Moosomin, Dr. Keown; Rouleau West, Dr. Brooke; Melville, Dr. Hart; Battleford, Dr. Laurie; Kerrobert, Dr. Dixon; Broadview, Dr. Attingham; Watrous, Dr. Elliott; Medicine Hat, Dr. Hawthorne; Edmonton, Dr. Henry.

It is really a good sign that professional men in the West are beginning to take an active interest in municipal affairs. They might take more interest than they do now in the East, to the general benefit. Medical men ought to be better fitted than the average citizens for the diagnosis of civic ills, and their long practice in handling bills ought to help them out in their legislative duties. In their dealings with avaricious corporations, also, they should be able to charge enough to keep the city from getting the short end of it.—Daily Mail.

A WORKINGMEN'S READING ROOM.

The public library of Calgary, Alberta, established in the downtown section of the city last winter a reading room for workingmen which proved to be a successful experiment.

A local motion picture theatre was at the time empty; it had been bought by the government for post office purposes, but was not yet required for use, so rent was free. An electric company gave the light, the city gave the water and a small appropriation, citizens contributed books and old magazines, the Park Department supplied benches, and the library had some old tables which it loaned. Checkers and chess were added, and these, with some of the furniture, were paid for by the library—the total expenditure being about \$30. Free stationery was provided and thousands of letters were written by the men.

The New Civic Improvement League

R. O. WYNNE ROBERTS,

The conference which was held at Ottawa under the auspices of the Commission of Conservation, was attended by ladies and gentlemen who are actively interested in various branches of civic life, and the trend of the discussion indicated a strong desire for a concerted movement for improvements in many directions.

The attitude of the delegates toward civic ideals predicated a future full of lively debates, and stirring times for whilst the speakers were earnest and enthusiastic in their speeches, and submitted forceful arguments on behalf of their contentions, it was evident that all present did not accept the statements at full value. If such contentions were acceptable to all, then the meetings will produce little that will be permanent and beneficial, because it is only after severe refining process that gold is obtained, and likewise true and lasting advantages are to be had only by a free discussion by generous-minded people, when all points—palatable and otherwise—are energetically debated.

The objects for which the Civic Improvement League was inaugurated comprise many things which, if adequately considered, digested, and discussed, will provide abundant materials for thought and action. What, in short, are these objects? They include the constitution of municipal governments, town planning, conservation, education, recreation, art, music, sanitation, housing, assessments, etc.

The writer has in these columns discussed the question of municipal government, but the subject is a great and absorbing one, and here it may be stated that municipal government in Britain is administered by practically the same class of men as in America. It was stated at the Conference that the reason for the success of Municipal Government in Britain was due to the active part taken by men of leisure, who devoted their time for the good of the people. In the course of over thirty years' experience, the writer found but a very small percentage of leisured men on Municipal Councils. The electorate put in men who, like themselves, depend for their livelihood on the active pursuit of their individual business or craft, and therefore were alive to the fact that Municipal Government had to be both efficient and enterprising if their town was to maintain its position. The reason for success cannot be ascribed to the influence and guidance of the leisured class, so it must be found elsewhere. The writer would suggest that stability of any government is dependent upon the confidence it inspires. If an electorate is apparently indifferent to the manner in which their city is governed, it cannot be depended upon, because for some reason or other it will suddenly bestir itself, and then the old members are thrown overboard and a new set installed in their place. The results are not satisfactory, and the system is denounced. The Civic Improvement League, it is hoped, will kindle a lively and persistent interest in municipal affairs not for the purpose of knocking those who are in office and disheartening everyone, but in order to support those who strive to do their best. After all, municipal government is but the aggregate result of human effort, and being human, it is subject to faults and weaknesses. This applies to the best of them, and the sooner we accept the situation the better, for we will not then expect perfection, but will hope for as high a standard as can be humanly attained.

Another object of the League is to promote school and college courses in civics, and so on. This is an admirable object, because, if we cannot convert the older members of the electorate we can at least educate the young, who will one day assume their responsibilities and duties. It was with such an object that a number of graduates in New York took the oath of fidelity for the pursuit of knowledge in civic affairs, and the promotion of those things which would tend to rectitude in public administration. Courses in "Civics" constitute an important branch of the work in some colleges and schools. City problems require the best minds available, and it is to be hoped the day is not far distant when a rigorous collegiate training in civics will be necessary to hold office in Municipal Government.

Meaning of Town Planning.

Town planning in its main phases, is another object of the League. If town planning is of slow growth in old countries it is because it is difficult and exceedingly ex-

pensive to make the desirable changes. New avenues were laid out by Sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire in London, but his plans were not adopted, and today the ratepayers have to incur vast expenditure to remedy that which should have been avoided. Is it much better in new countries? Are there not cities less than 50 years old where improved and widened streets are already required? There are new villages laid out on the plans of the old, and soon it will be found that inadequate and unsatisfactory provisions were made for efficient transport. Each town and city has its own advantages for certain industries, or as centres of education, or for agricultural markets. Each city should have a silhouette of its own, but the present tendencies are for all to become alike. Town planning is generally mis-interpreted. It is usually associated with ideas of great civic centres, great parks and boulevards, in fact, one city is spending huge sums on beautification, whilst the street pavements are apparently overlooked. Town planning concerns everything, and every movement which has for its objects the building up of a healthy, active, beautiful, well-organized and balanced city. The prudent administration will consider each requirement of their cities in terms of what will be the ultimate dividend. Not necessarily today, but in course of time. It does not always follow that the trees which bear fruit the soonest are the best paying trees. Olive trees, it is stated, require a generation of great care to become mature, and then the return is abundant and lucrative. So with city schemes, due regard should be paid to the probable returns—years hence. Cities are built for all time, and thereby should be carefully and well laid out. There are many other objects which might with advantage be dwelt upon, but probably enough has been stated to show that the Civic Improvement League has a very important function to fulfil, and it is to be hoped that this League will receive the hearty and loyal support of all who love their country, and hope to see the town and cities built on the most acceptable lines, and that their administrations are carried on with the highest regard to the welfare of the people. The work of the League is not only a present one, but a permanent one, because municipal problems will increase in importance and magnitude with time, and what is achieved today forms but a stepping stone for further achievements.

CIVIC GOVERNMENT REFORMS.

Mayor Waugh, of Winnipeg, in a recent address before the Canadian Credit Men's Association laid emphasis on the value of co-operation between the local authorities and citizens' associations. Referring in particular to civic reform his worship said that for years he had placed himself on record as being an advocate of the most efficient form of government obtainable, and persistently urged that the people owed it to themselves and councillors to take a keener and more active interest in civic affairs. All were more or less guilty of apathy on matters of public interest, and he appealed to them to effect a change by instituting some sort of a citizen's league which would lend counsel and advice to the city council on important civic questions. The council would welcome the assistance of broadminded men who would form themselves into an organization having for its object the discussion of civic problems in a sympathetic and critical interest and co-operating with the city council in effecting all-round improvement and making Winnipeg a city of great achievement and intelligent development. Such an organization would have his whole hearted support.

Personally he believed that Winnipeg was well governed and honestly governed, but nevertheless they should strive to attain the very highest standard of community efficiency. "I am not saying 'go on,' but 'come on.' In saying so I do not want to be understood as assuming a leadership, but merely record the fact that I am in with you personally and officially in anything that will make Winnipeg in every sense a centre of real progress," he added.

His worship pointed out the advantages of such an organization, as a civic improvement league, stating that it would crystalize public opinion on questions of vital importance to the city.

A New Form of Civic Voting

American city government is passing through a period of experimentation and change. The commission form of government, originating in Galveston in 1900, has been adopted by over 300 cities. More recently came the city-manager plan, and this, too, is spreading rapidly. Now comes Ashtabula, Ohio, with quite a new thing in American elections: the adoption of the Hare system of proportional representation which has operated with great success in Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand. Ashtabula had already adopted the city-manager plan with a policy-determining council of seven, elected at large. The next step was to see that this council truly represented public opinion, by its make-up, so far as possible, by in-make-up all the various interests in the city. Election at large has often worked out like a sweepstakes—the winning party taking all. Minorities were left to the tender mercies of the party in power.

The Ashtabula plan is briefly this:

1. Candidates are nominated by petition of a small percentage of the voters.
2. The ballot has no party designations.
3. The voter places the figures 1 2 3, etc., before names of candidates to indicate his relative preferences.
4. The whole number of valid ballots is divided by one more than the number of seats to be filled. The next whole number larger than the quotient is the quota or constituency.
5. All candidates securing first choice votes equal to or greater than the quota are elected.
6. Votes in excess of the quota are termed surplus votes.
7. All surplus votes, in the order of the size of the surplus, are then transferred in accordance with the highest available choice marked on the ballots to candidates not already elected. After the transfer of the surplus votes, if candidates sufficient to fill all the seats have not secured a quota, the lowest man is dropped and his votes transferred. This process is kept up until the required number of candidates have the quota, or until, by dropping the low men, only candidates enough remain to fill the vacant seats.

This system is intended to make every vote count. It should serve as a stimulus to voting by making citizens feel that going to the polls is worth while.—Philadelphia Bureau of Municipal Research.

Clarence Hoag, in referring to the election which took place Nov. 2, says:

The number of seats in the council of Ashtabula is seven. The object of the proportional system is to assure a seat in the council to any group of voters in the city numbering approximately a seventh of the voters who unite in the support of a candidate. The election was at large, nominations were made by petition, and the ballot was non-partisan and preferential.

The first-class votes received by the fourteen candidates were as follows:

McClure	392
Hogan	322
McCune	309
Gudmundson	292
Earlywine	289
Rinto	237
Briggs	211
Corrado	196
Tilton	193
Flower	147
Carlson	138
Cook	114
Loose	107
Lampela	25

As the total number of valid ballots was 2,372, a moment's calculation showed that any candidate who got 372 votes was sure of election, as not more than seven of them could get that number each. McClure, therefore, who had 392 first-choice votes, was at once declared elected and the 20 ballots he had received above the needed 372 were transferred to other candidates, each one to the candidate preferred next to McClure by the voter who had cast it.

The next step was to eliminate the candidates one by one, each time the one 'then' lowest on the poll, transferring each of his ballots separately to the unelected and uneliminated candidate next preferred by the voter who cast it.

The upshot of the count was the election of Messrs. McClure, Hogan, McCune, Earlywine, Gudmundson, Briggs and Corrado—in that order. This council is declared by the newspapers of Ashtabula to represent the whole city with extraordinary fairness. The "Beacon" points out that it represents the business, professional and laboring men; the Republicans, Democrats and Socialists; the native-born, the Swedes and the Italians; the wets and the dries; the Protestants and the Catholics, and the different wards and sections of the city. It is only a council thus truly representative of all the principal interests and opinions of the city, proportionalists contend, that is fit to be entrusted, according to the fundamental principles of democracy, with the spending of the taxes of all. Proportionalists hold, too, that admission to the council of the true representatives of all sections of public opinion is the real secret of securing the co-operation of all in the government.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS TAKES UP TOWN PLANNING.

Mr. H. V. Lanchester, who has just left England for a six months' stay in India for the purpose of advising the Government of Madras on the subject of town planning, has given an interesting account of his aims. He stated that he expected to have full scope to study and advise on town planning in Madras, in the comprehensive sense he regards as necessary. Mr. Lanchester was careful to emphasize the fact that, in addition to studying the civic possibilities of the town of Madras from every standpoint, architectural, aesthetic, sociological and so on, he would have particular regard for his-historical continuity and would not propose plans which, however suited to the West, bore no relation to the real requirements of India. The mistake he considered had been made too often in India of mechanically planting on the Indian races rigid plans and methods entirely unsuited to Eastern ideas. Indians were not lacking in any way in intelligence, and in the artistic sense, though they might be deficient in persistent effort, and if they were to produce the results of which they were capable, in architecture, town planning or anything else, they had to be given the opportunity to produce it under conditions suitable to them, however unsuitable they might be to Western ideas. His aim would be, in considering the civic possibilities in Madras, to revive and restore wherever possible, to preserve historic continuity, and, in short, in introducing the best in Western ideas of town planning not to lose sight of or ignore the best already to be found in Indian cities. That, he remarked, might sound a little high-falutin', but the great failure in town planning was the tendency to compromise and to have rather a low aim in view. Town planning was often regarded as a mere cutting of streets and introducing a few green patches here and there, and in view of this it was as well for those who were seriously interested in the matter to "hitch their wagon to a star." In conclusion, Mr. Lanchester said he was only following as a practical man in the footsteps of Professor Geddes, whose tour in India lately on behalf of the Madras Government, had paved the way for constructive work.—Town Planning.

MUNICIPAL INTELLIGENCE (NOT IN CANADA).

- First Councillor:—"Here's a fine-looking street."
 Second Ditto: "You're right. What's the best thing to do with it?"
 "Let's have it dug up for a drain."
 "But wouldn't it be proper to pave it first?"
 "Of course; I thought you would understand that. Then, after it is paved and a drain put in, we'll have it repaved."
 "All in readiness to be dug up again for the gas-pipe? I see you understand the principles of municipal economy. And after we have had it repaved for the second time, then what?"
 "Well, then it will be ready for widening. There's nothing I admire so much as system in the care and improvement of our roadways."

How to Make True Canadians

In Canada we fail to understand the foreigners, or we despise them. They meet with this attitude at every turn. They live in this atmosphere. With what result? They soon come to accept our rating. They despise themselves, and everything associated with that hated word "foreigner." One day I came across a newly arrived Polish boy, Steffen, who was not attending school. In the same tenement lived another Polish boy, Mike, who had lived in the country for nearly a year. I asked Mike why he didn't taken Steffen to school. He hung his head, and for a time I could get no answer. At last it came "He foreigner." Poor little Mike, one year in Canada, was ashamed to be seen with the little foreign Steffen, who wore long pants and spoke no English.

So in the zeal to become Canadian everything of the old world is thrown aside. Becoming head shawls give place to ugly cheap hats of the prevailing fashion. Exquisitely worked garments are discarded for ill-fitting cheap quality "store" clothes.

An Arts and Craft Society recently sought my assistance in their effort to revive lace making and handicrafts among the immigrants. Their thought was to educate the foreigners. I pointed out that the task was a much more difficult one—that of educating our own Canadians to an appreciation of the beautiful. So soon as we come to value beautiful work bearing the stamp of personality—just so soon will the immigrant find it easy—not to gain—but to retain his inherited standards of the beautiful. If ninety-nine per cent of our people slavishly follow the fashions it is rather too much to expect that a newly arrived immigrant—eager not to be conspicuous—will have the good sense and the courage to maintain his old world standards.

It is so difficult to develop powers of discrimination—to retain the best in the old and yet appreciate the best in the new—as difficult as it is for us to appreciate the best in the new—as difficult as it is for us to appreciate the good when it presents itself in strange and uncouth garb.

An ardent young "Daughter of the Empire" declares passionately that the first and last word of advice to the immigrant is "Be British"—Fiddle-dee-dee!

It is so easy to become superficially Canadian. The story is told of a Russian who greatly resented being called a Doukhobor. He himself despised any thing in the shape of a religious fanatic. He struggled to express himself in broken English. "Me no Doukhobor, me drink, me swear, me Canadian."

Ruthenians are praised because they so rapidly imitate our Canadian "ways," while English immigrants are said to be lacking in adaptability. Now, no one will deny that sturdy English independence sometimes degenerates into stupid self-assertion. But, after all, mere imitativeness is a sign of weakness, not of strength. The most imitative thing on two legs is the monkey! The man that can on the slightest provocation divest himself of old customs, dissociate himself from old traditions, give up old ideals, exchange his religion and forget the old home-land—that man will surely not become the best Canadian citizen.

"Our people," said an Italian to me, "are being assimilated too fast for their own good." He might have added, "and that means too fast for Canada's good." This, I know, is not the popular view, but then few have stopped to think their way through the problem.

Earl Grey was inspecting a public school in which he had been informed there were children of many nationalities. He asked "Will the German children stand?" Not a child moved. "Will the Polish children stand?" Not a move. His Excellency was somewhat nonplussed, but he tried again: "Will the Canadian children stand." There was an instant movement and every child was on his feet. His Excellency was delighted; the visitors were delighted; the teacher was congratulated, the scholars praised. Said a school trustee to me afterwards. "That's the way to make Canadians, let them forget the old land absolutely." Of course, this kind of thing tickles our vanity, and it is excellent copy, but perhaps few outside of social workers in close touch with the people have seen how it actually works out.

Here is a Polish woman, who, with her "man" and "the kinder" came from Russia two years ago. She is prematurely old for her life has been a hard one. There is nothing brilliant about her, but she is thoroughly honest, moral and deeply religious. She is giving her life for her family. Her daughter Lisbeth is only sixteen,

but in the two years has acquired a good knowledge of English, and is proceeding to act on the policy of forgetting the old. She already openly disregards the advice of her old mother. "She's a stupid old woman" declares young Lisbeth. "She's been in this country as long as I have and yet she doesn't know English, and she still wears those old-fashioned clothes." So Lisbeth is striking out a course for herself. Her mother in vain warns against being on the street late at nights. "Ei" thinks Lisbeth "all very well for the old country, but I'm a Canadian now and all the girls do it." And Lisbeth today is heading straight for trouble.

The Icelanders are among the most generally respected of our immigrants. Yet none have clung more devotedly to their own language and literature. The result? Their language is on the curriculum of the University of Manitoba. Their professors are on our teaching staff, and their students throng our college halls. Three years ago the Rhodes scholar was an Icelander; two years ago a German Mennonite, trained in a German Bilingual school; this year a Hebrew. (Better stop immigration and give the Canadian boys a chance.) Are not all of these men richer for having entered into the treasuries of two literatures and the traditions of two great peoples?

Could you really respect a man who could forget his native land? What would think of an Englishman who never thought of Old England, of a Scotchman who was ashamed of the heather, or an Irishman who never recalled the "Owld Sod?" The more patriotic the Englishman, or the Scotchman or the Irishman, the more patriotic a Canadian he will become. So with the Icelander and the Pole and the other "foreigners."

Our true attitude then ought to be that of respect and intelligent sympathy. My board once came into possession of a Polish hall in which there had been left hanging prints of famous Polish heroes. A loyal Canadian thought to inculcate Canadian ideals by placing in the frames portraits of British heroes. A well-intentioned idea, but an absolutely wrong policy. Let the Poles keep their heroes. They are rightly proud of them. We too, should be proud of them. Surely there is room in our Canadian Pantheon for more than our British heroes. In our Canadian garden, under the shelter of the maple, there will flourish not only the rose, the shamrock, the thistle, and the fleur-de-lis, but a score more flowers of which as yet we hardly know the names.

Wanted Social Interpreters.

Settlement and institute workers ask how we can best help the immigrant. It seems to me that the true functions of the settlement worker is that of interpreter. He must interpret Canadian life to the new arrival and on the other hand, he must interpret the experiences, thoughts and purposes of the new arrival to our untravelled Canadians.

A Syrian acquaintance told me of a friend's family. The mother spoke Syrian and no English. The older children, born near Damascus, spoke Syrian and English. The younger children, born in Canada, and brought up on the streets with English-speaking children, spoke English and very little Syrian. The older children have actually, on occasions, to act as interpreters between the mother and the younger children. Fancy that mother trying, through her daughter interpreter, to tell the younger daughter about the old land, the old home, the old friends, the old social life and customs, the old faith, and fancy that young daughter trying to tell her mother through the elder sister about the wonderfully fascinating life about her, about her young hopes and fears and struggles. Difficult? Yet! But suppose there were no older sister, no go-between, no one who understood both the old and the new?

That is the unfortunate situation to-day. There is no go-between to bring the immigrant and the Canadian together. The quiet, simple village life of the European peasant has little in common with the bustling, complex life of a modern industrial city. We call the immigrant stupid, and ignorantly refuse to trace back to their deep roots his national characteristics. He, on his part, seeks in vain for some guiding thread that will lead him through what seems the bewildering maze of this strange new life. Wanted, an interpreter! Yes, more than a missionary. Can we not appeal to our university men and women? They presumably have a wider outlook, have entered a little at least into other literatures and civiliza-

tions, have shed some of their "provincial" prejudices and have caught something of the spirit of modern idealism and social service. Surely here is a splendid field and one that will yield rich results.

But further and more difficult tasks devolve upon our Canadian leaders. We carelessly class all people as English-speaking people and "foreigners." We forget that frequently there are wider differences between groups of foreigners than between "the foreigners" and ourselves. In older days the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans. The same might be said concerning the modern Jews, and say, the Russians, or the Poles and the Germans. Old world enmities are carried across the Atlantic and die hard. We had in the same institute a German and a Polish mothers' meeting, holding their gatherings on different days. One day the meeting happened to fall on the same day. The Polish women had been making a quilt. To the surprise of all, the German women actually offered to help them finish it. To the institute workers who knew their jealousies it seemed as if the millennium was about to dawn! Canadian sympathy had done what all the German army had failed to do!

I think of the change that in the course of a few short years has taken place in the life of a young Jew whom I met first in one of our night schools. In "Strangers Within Our Gates" I published the following account of his early life, which he wrote as a composition exercise: "I was born in N——, eight miles from Berlin. When I was three years of age my father moved to a little village not far from the town of W——, in Russia. At the age of four I was sent to a Hebrew school, which I attended for two years. After that my father engaged a private teacher, who lived at our house; he taught me reading, writing and arithmetic, and religious knowledge. I was instructed in the five books of Moses, and in the prophets according to the Jewish beliefs. This teacher stayed with us for four years, and by the end of that time I was being taught in the Jewish Talmud. I worked on the farm for one year, helping my father. When I was eleven years old I started again to school in the town of W——, to learn the Russian language. I attended school for one year and three months, after which I went home for the summer holidays.

"During my holidays an incident transpired in my life which I shall always remember. On Sunday I was at church, and listened to the priest, who, to my mind and way of thinking, did not preach the unvarnished truth to the poor, uneducated people. At the close of the service he came through the pews carrying a gold cross in his hand, and requesting all the people to kiss it. This I refused to do. Then he began to preach directly to me, telling me if I refused to obey I would invoke the anger of God. He finished by telling how cruelly the Jews treated Christ, and urged his people to be cruel to the Jews when they had the chance. At this I got up on a chair and began to talk to the people. I cannot remember now exactly what I said, but the tenor of my speech was that the people should think for themselves and not be led astray by those who preached for material gain. Space will not permit me to go into details but suffice it to say that my act was a grave offence against the Russian law, and a few hours after I got home two police officials came to my father's house to take me to jail. My father took me out on bail, and as I was under age I did not receive any punishment, but was warned if a like occurrence happened, I would pay for the whole business.

"When I was about thirteen years of age I went back to school and got mixed up with Socialists. I was greatly influenced and a few months found me a Socialist organizer and preacher. While I was thus engaged, I learned that the law officers were hunting me. I had to leave home and flee into Germany with friends, where I remained for three years, when I left and came to Canada. I was sixteen years of age, I could not speak a word of English, and did not know any people here. I do not go to any place of worship. I spend my time reading."

Now, let me tell the sequel. Two years later, this young man entered upon a university course. So far had he caught the spirit of service that during the summer holidays he took a position as camp-instructor under the Reading Camp Association. "I can understand the foreigners and their needs," he told me. "I, as a foreigner, was greatly helped, and I feel I ought to do something to help others." And he went out to try to help his former enemies, the persecutors of his race, the Russians and the Poles.

(A second instalment of Mr. Woodsworth's studies will appear next month.)

GREAT GOOD ROADS CONGRESS WILL BE HELD IN 1916 IN MONTREAL.

The third annual Canadian International Good Roads Congress will be held in Sohmer Park, Montreal, during the week of March 6 to March 10, 1916. As there are likely to be over two thousand delegates attending this gathering, the committee of the Dominion Good Roads Association, under whose auspices the Congress will be held, had considerable difficulty in obtaining a hall that would comfortably accommodate all the delegates, as well as provide some space for the many interesting exhibits which will form one of the principal features of the Congress.

The great building at Sohmer Park is one of the largest in Montreal, and is well adapted for the holding of a Congress. It is also the only hall available at that time of the year, and being centrally situated, will assuredly prove an ideal meeting place for the hundreds of experts and other delegates who will be attending the Congress.

The exhibition has every indication of being larger and more comprehensive than any previous effort, for despite the war, manufacturers are taking a keen interest in it not only within the Dominion, but also in the United States and Great Britain. Many of the machinery exhibits will be staged in the building itself, but there will be a new feature in the coming congress in the shape of a large quantity of machinery in operation in the large area of ground which surrounds the building, but which, at the same time is enclosed from the public view. Tractors, graders, mixers, and all the latest machinery for enabling the highway authorities to "mend their ways" will be on view, while in the building itself there will also be samples of road making, road metals and other materials, and all the accessories that are essential to the good road.

Application has been made to the Federal Government to accord to the Congress the same privileges as in the past in the matter of allowing all exhibits for the Congress to come into the Dominion free of duty, under bond, for the week of the Convention, and this will no doubt be given, for the members of the Cabinet are keen enthusiasts for good roads throughout the Dominion, and have frequently expressed their desire to do all that is possible to further the movement.

The secretary of the Convention, G. A. McNamee, has already received a good deal of correspondence from representative interests throughout the Dominion, and there is sure to be a very large body of delegates from both urban and rural districts who are vitally interested on "Good Roads."

THE PATRIOTIC AND RED CROSS FUNDS.

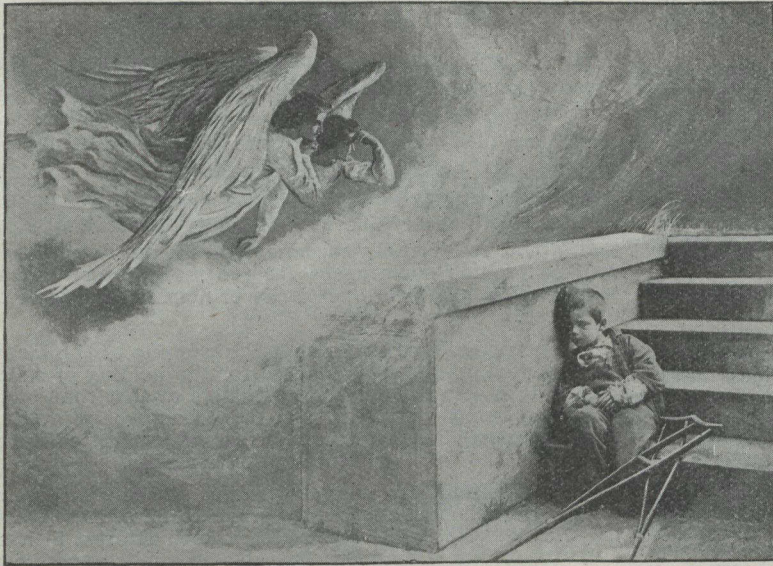
The Union of Manitoba Municipalities favored unanimously the suggestion that a rate of one mill on the dollar be levied throughout the province, outside of Winnipeg, for support of Patriotic Fund and Red Cross Fund—it being estimated that \$550,000 would thus be raised, of which \$500,000 would be paid to former fund. Winnipeg can be counted upon to raise the other \$500,000 needed for Patriotic Fund.

A MUNICIPAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE.

The city of Cuero, Texas, observed Thanksgiving Day in a municipal homecoming and thanksgiving service, by proclamation of the Mayor.

The service was held in the evening in a public hall, and was formally opened by the Mayor. Music was furnished by the municipal band and the municipal choir, assisted by a soloist. There was also singing, in which the audience was asked to join. The devotional portions of the service were contributed by local pastors, one of whom delivered the municipal sermon.

One of the reasons for bringing Cuero's citizens together upon this occasion was that the important subject of providing playgrounds for the city might be presented to them. The offering of the evening was used to start a fund for the acquisition and improvement of one or more of the beautiful parks adjacent to the city, which it is desired to make available for playground purposes.



CHILD SAVING IN ONTARIO

In June 1891, Mr. J. J. Kelso, of Toronto, then a reporter for one of Toronto's leading newspapers, called a meeting of citizens for the purpose of organizing a Society for the protection of children. Among the things mentioned by him as desirable were the following:

1. Better school accommodation, especially for the very poor.
2. Kindergarten mission schools.
3. A refuge for children taken by the police.
4. Separate trials for juvenile offenders.
5. Probation officer to act as child's next friend.
7. Enforcement of Newsboy licensing regulations.
8. Keeping boys from living in low class lodging and eating places.
9. Formation of boys' clubs.
10. Playgrounds in poorer districts.
11. Fresh Air Fund to provide summer outings for poor children.
12. A provincial officer to supervise this work.

On July 21st, 1891, the first Children's Aid Society was organized with Mr. Kelso as President, and was incorporated in October of the same year. Since that time over two hundred and fifty societies have been set going by Mr. Kelso in all parts of Canada from Halifax to Vancouver.

In the latter part of 1892 Sir Oliver Mowat announced that the Government had decided to introduce the best law for the care and protection of children that could be devised. The Provincial Secretary, Hon. J. M. Gibson, (afterwards Lieutenant Governor of Ontario) was entrusted with the task of preparing the bill. In February 1893 the Act was passed, and since that date the Government has always maintained and encouraged this work, making financial appropriations in support thereof, until at present a considerable sum is spent yearly. Mr. Kelso has been Superintendent of the Government department from its inception and the work has grown until now there are 69 Children's Aid Societies in Ontario, in addition to numerous subsidiary branches. These cover four classes of municipality—county, city, separated town and provisional judicial district. There are 36 officers, in most cases spending all their time in the work of child rescue; beside these there is a great host of men and women who enthusiastically assist with their time, talents, and cash.

Financing.

The Ontario Government pays the salary and travelling expenses of the Superintendent and two Inspectors as well as the salaries of an office staff of two men and seven women.

In cases where a County or City Agent spends his whole time in the work and visits all wards placed in foster homes within his municipality he is paid by the Government for this visiting and the balance of his salary and running expenses are raised locally by charitably disposed citizens.

The expense of taking children to a shelter and to foster homes as well as the board of such children while in a shelter is paid by the municipality to which the child belongs. This is made compulsory by law.

Each municipality is required also to supply one or more shelters for children only and to assist in the maintenance thereof. This part of the Act is not rigidly insisted upon, except by friendly pressure being brought to bear upon the various Councils.

Good Policy.

They are urged to do it as a matter of good policy and as a money saving scheme. For the wise Councilman can readily see that to save children from crime, ignorance and poverty, at a very small cost is a vast saving when the detecting of the criminal, trial and care of those convicted costs many thousands of dollars each. Then the saving to the community by making the child a good citizen, a wage-earner and money spender appeal strongly to the man who is not easily moved by pity for those who suffer because they are not getting a chance.

Method of Procedure.

When a complaint is sent in a good competent man investigates the case thoroughly. He usually warns the parents, explains the law, and advises as to how best he may satisfy the law's demands. If no improvement follows, a second or even a third warning may be given, sometimes by bringing the parents before the Court, but allowing them to still retain the custody of the children. As a last resort when all effort has failed or where there is no hope from the beginning or where a gross crime



Waiting to be taken care of by the Children's Aid Society.

against the child has been committed, he is brought before the court. The father and mother are notified to attend. They are given every opportunity to defend themselves or to plead with the court. If the evidence warrants it the child is made a ward of the Children's Aid Society. Until 21 years of age he is under their control. He is sent to the shelter, properly cleaned and dressed, taught the ordinary rules of conduct, and as soon as a suitable foster home can be found he is placed out under an agreement in writing which is as near adoption as is thought wise. The Society may remove the child and the foster parent may send him back. Thus no child is kept where he is not really loved and wanted. If after a child has been in a shelter for a time the parents show signs of repentance so as to convince the Society the child will be properly cared for they may allow the child to return to his parents, but in so doing the Society does not relinquish their claim upon him any more than if he were in a foster home.

If the parent feels that he has been unjustly dealt with he may appeal to the High Court and if he convinces the Court that the best interests of the child would be served by his being returned, the Court may so order.

The religion of the child is fixed at the time of trial and Roman Catholic and Protestant children are placed with foster parents of their own religion.

Results in Twenty-one Years.

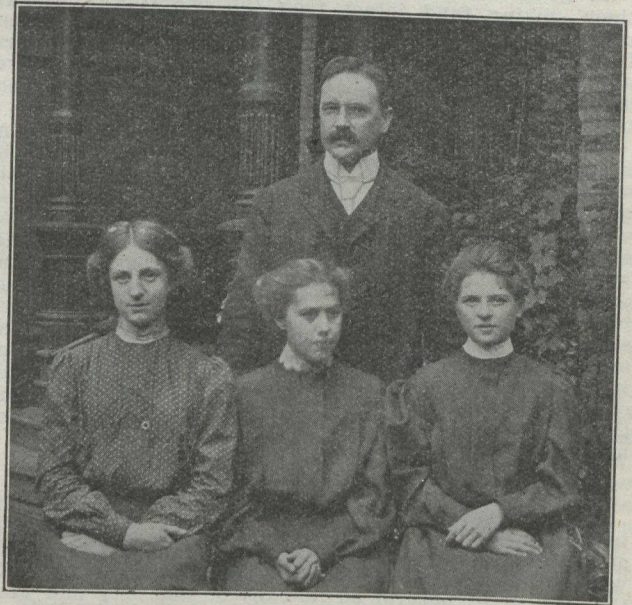
During the past twenty-one years 9,500 children were made wards. These were all provided with foster homes. Nearly 900 were received from reformatories and orphanages. These figures do not, of course, include the thousands who have been helped and rescued without having been committed. Over 400 of these have married, and it is estimated that at least 500 of the boys have enlisted for overseas service in this great war.

In those communities where the work has been most vigorously prosecuted for some years a marked change is noted. The whole community has a better moral tone, and fewer children are neglected and committed.

him back. Upon his entering the fifth home he was loved and welcomed. He became very much attached to the family and a parting would be well-nigh impossible. Any child is sure to fit somewhere and the aim is to find that place.

Failures.

Few real failures are recorded. Probably not more than one per cent of those taken over have become abandoned characters or find their way into prison cells. It



Superintendent J. J. Kelso, and three of his wards.

is a great source of joy to those interested in their rescue to see children taken from squalor, wretchedness, poverty and crime, growing up to be attractive, well educated, clever and good living citizens, sometimes in tears expressing their gratitude for what has been done for them.

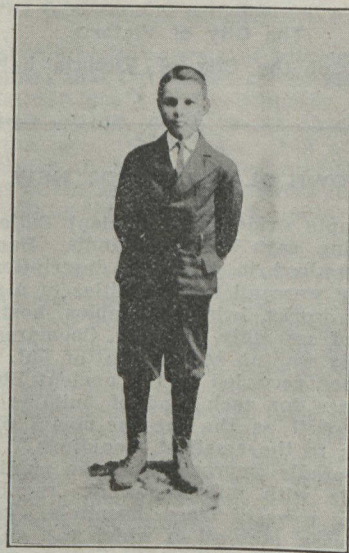
Then the number of mothers who have been saved from drink, immorality, and neglect of home by the fear of losing their children is legion.



Before Reclamation.

Visitation.

The wards are visited in their foster homes at least one in each year and a typed report of each visit is sent to the Society, to which the child belongs. If the home is not suitable or the child not suited to the home then a change is made. One boy was placed four times and the foster parents in each case so disliked him that they sent



After Reclamation.

What is It?

This work is not religious, at the same time it is most highly Christian. It is not political, but it is most highly patriotic. It is not really charity, and yet it is prompted by the deepest, strongest, wisest love.

The nation that would have bright, intelligent, moral and prosperous citizens will start at the very foundations and see that her children get a fighting chance.

Municipal Affairs in British Columbia

Councillor JACK LOUET.

MUNICIPALITIES AND THE WAR LOAN

The War Loan of the Dominion of Canada enabled many municipalities in British Columbia to combine patriotism with good business and most cities and districts with their sinking fund intact took the opportunity of subscribing. The Cities of Victoria, New Westminster, North Vancouver and Nelson and the Districts of Burnaby Point Grey North Vancouver and South Vancouver among others made fairly large applications and expect to be allotted their full amount.

As the sinking fund is computed on a 4 per cent basis, the new loan besides placing the fund beyond the reach of temptation, as regards borrowing from it, will gradually reduce the amount required to be levied. Dissatisfaction was expressed in many places over the brokerage question and the ignorance of the banks as to whether both they and brokers would get commission. The commission to brokers was presumed to be an inducement to them to direct clients' attention to the loan but resulted in brokers sending their forms to those who had announced their intention of investing and practically no work was done for the commission received. As a result of this peculiar position several municipalities invested through brokers on condition that a portion of the commission went to the Patriotic Fund.

Forces That Make Cities.

In November, Mr. Allan D. Albert, President of the International Rotary Clubs of America gave an interesting address in Vancouver on "Forces that make Cities." He was enthusiastic about the city of Vancouver but said that the great natural advantages of that city had been responsible for its growth and not the efforts of its population. He urged the necessity for intelligent effort on the part of the people of Greater Vancouver. He criticized strongly the prevailing outcry against high salaries in civic administration and drew attention to the absurdity of paying \$3,500 a year to the Mayor running a \$5,000,000 business, \$3,000 to engineers who yearly planned and supervised \$750,000 of work and \$3,000 a year to a solicitor who was the custodian of a \$34,000,000 property.

He was impressed with the comparatively small outlay required for charity in Vancouver and in talking of the police force said that there must be a special providence watching over a city with so small a number of men.

The City of Victoria.

The Council of the City of Victoria have requested

all civic departments and the school board to submit estimates for next years expenditures. This seems a very sound move and while a new council or a new school board need not adopt these estimates they would undoubtedly be found a valuable guide, while if practically the same men are elected a great saving of time will result.

The ratepayers also will have a better idea as to what is proposed for the ensuing year.

Mayor Stewart is again a candidate for office and is likely to be returned unopposed for a third term. His election recently as President of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities is a tribute to his worth and to the interest he takes in municipal affairs. The question as to whether Municipal property can be made the subject of Mechanics Liens has arisen in a case in Point Grey and as the appeal judges are equally divided on the matter the question will now go direct to the Privy Council.

A Million Dollar Bank Issue.

The District of Burnaby has now under consideration the issuing of a million dollar bond issue to retire treasury notes falling due in the near future.

The intention apparently is to consolidate the bonds which now secure the note issue and make the new bonds in serial form.

This is practically a new departure in British Columbia and is hardly likely to be generally adopted until a better system for the collection and enforcing of payment of taxes is adopted by the legislature. With some municipalities collecting barely enough to pay interest a serious situation would arise if a portion of the debt had also to be liquidated but when collections improve under better tax laws and better business conditions, the serial bond is likely to be generally adopted.

Returned Soldiers.

The provision to be made for returned soldiers has not yet been taken up seriously by the municipalities, the necessity not having yet arisen but the 1916 councils are likely to take up this question and decide on a course of action. Where the soldier was a civic employee prior to enlistment his position is kept open for him and it is expected that preference will afterwards be given to men who have seen active service.

Committees of welcome arrange for the entertainment of returned soldiers and in Vancouver it is proposed to have a permanent home or club where soldiers may meet and be kept in touch with until suitable employment is found.

TOWN PLANNING NOT NEW.

There is ample evidence in ancient Indian literature, of town planning, says Wealth of India. Banabhatta, the writer of Kadambari, in giving a description of Ujjaini, says that there were all the amenities of a civilized life, such as water works, bridges, temples, hostels, pleasure grounds, hall of assembly, etc. Dr. Coomaraswamy says: "Town planning was no secular matter but, according to sacred traditions recorded in the ancient Shilpashastras, the proper place for each kind of building was strictly prescribed as well as the measurements of the actual buildings down to the smallest mouldings." The Edicts of Asoka repeatedly impress upon the public the utility of broad roads with mile-stones at regular intervals, shaded by long rows of trees, hospitals, good drinking water, rest houses, etc., all of which can only exist in a well-organized State. All the houses were generally built with small courtyards, which were important, both from the sanitary and the social points of view. There were small gardens inside these squares. The town was divided into so many parts according to the castes inhabiting it. There were recreations for which spaces were kept apart. The courtyards served as shafts for light and air as the city grew in population, and there was congestion. As a rule the streets in the Indian towns were long, narrow and sinuous, but there were also broad roads for elephant processions, which were such a great feature on festive occasions.—Garden Cities.

NATIONAL LABOUR BUREAUS.

The Editor:—

The need for a National Labour Bureau is manifest on every hand, and I earnestly wish it could be realized at once. It would save an enormous amount of misery and be an added protection to the children of the working classes.

J. J. KELSO, Superintendent,
Neglected and Dependent Children, Ontario.

EMPLOYMENT BUREAU OF EDMONTON.

The Employment Bureau of Edmonton for this year has greatly assisted in the matter of finding employment for a great number of people when work was not readily available to those making application. During the year the superintendent has found positions for 5,516 applicants, 1,751 of whom were outside the City, and also has been successful in finding work for 178 teams. In addition he was able to place 3,809 other applicants on the Relief Work within the City. The total cost of this department was \$2,122,—Mayor Henry.

A city's business is everybody's business, but everybody's business tends to become nobody's where there is not a definite sense of common responsibility.

In every city there is room for some citizen organization that will systematically concern itself with municipal organization.—Canadian Finance.

THE JUVENILE COURT.

By MRS. ROSE HENDERSON.

The fallen woman is the object of scorn, exploitation, punishment and ostracism. All doors are closed to her, and most of the temples erected in honour and commemoration of the lowly Nazarene, who so freely forgave the Magdalen, while the moral man goes his way unmolested, in fact protected by the very law which punishes his victim. His popularity and respect depend largely on his bank account. She must never raise her head only in supplication and plead for mercy. For her there is no hope on earth—unfit for motherhood, unfit for wifehood, unfit for companionship, unfit for all save a dishonourable life.

If these facts are true, and this discrimination between the sexes for the same offense exists, what can we do as relating to women? First of all, establish a Woman's Court, where all offenses, whether of a public or private nature, will be dealt with; introduce a system of investigation and probation similar to that now prevailing in the Juvenile Courts, and in existing Women's Courts; abolish fines, and especially jail for all save the hardest and oldest offenders. If fines must exist, and it must be made of the shame of women, then apply every dollar of it to erecting the most up-to-date training schools and gymnasiums where girls during committal will learn domestic science (those who want it) and others learn dressmaking, millinery and business, in fact, everything tending to make a girl economically independent when she is again sent out into the world. Abolish as far as possible all semblance of our present court atmosphere; curious men, brass buttons, Black Marias, and legal bickerings; make punishment not penal but remedial.

In relation to the woman offender, let her be the object of our keenest observation and tenderest care; let her be interviewed and tended as far as possible by her own sex and thereby save her from further exploitation and exposure to indecent words or actions. Of this I know whereof I speak—I have seen and heard remarks and actions towards very young girl offenders unfit for publication; this could not happen where a girl is handled and questioned by women. A so-called immoral woman is legitimate prey—her word won't be taken. She is helpless.

There must be aroused a more vivid public conscience in relation to both moral men and women. Our conscience and whole social fabric seem to have almost utterly ignored this screeching need. It is not punishment that is needed nearly so much as education and an opportunity to live with the low wages of both sexes, and not the innate sinfulness, is the real cause of immorality. Let us discuss this whole question more frankly, and freely, and cleanly—these are the mistakes of the race. Let us try to understand and solve them; the need and facts are ever before us. Let us not blink at them any longer; let us stop our hypocritical, sentimental discussions and sermons and prayers for the "poor fallen woman," dry our maudlin tears and do something practical. She needs our help more than our advice and prayers—God gave her a mind and tongue to pray for herself. We pray every Sunday for the Royal Family, our statesmen and rulers, but we don't stop there; we back this up with a good pension, a chance to carry out our good advice and good wishes.

The church and social organizations have failed lamentably to judge by the even tenor of their ways, except for a discussion now and then, we would never know such a problem existed. Sex hygiene must be taught in schools; church and school doors must be thrown open to receive the masses of young people and children who have no homes worthy of the name. We must give them clean, legitimate pleasure and recreation, instead of the low, commercialized, cheap amusements now corralling them by the thousands, and occupying their playtime and polluting their minds and morals.

There are but a few suggestions of construction work which can be done in every city. Many others will suggest themselves to use as we go on our way.

What will be the benefits derived from a Woman's Court? It will lessen and wipe out in time one of the lowest and cruelest features now common in all police courts in every large city, namely, fining, grafting, and the exploitation of one sex for either the benefit of the state or individuals.

It will do away with the now common pastime of young

THE TEACHING OF CIVICS IN SCHOOLS.

In teaching civics the aim should be to train for citizenship. Good citizenship depends not so much on a knowledge of the governmental forms of a community as upon the practice of civic virtue in that community. As a pupil lives in the community and is a part of it, he should know what community life means. He should have the desire to be an honest, industrious and useful member of the community, because he has been taught to feel that his happiness and the welfare of the community depend on his efforts to live right.

As a school is but a smaller community, it affords the teacher an excellent opportunity to illustrate concretely the principles underlying community life.

While a pupil should be taught that a citizen's rights are the most important things he can possess, that the government exists for the protection of his rights, and that the form of government depends upon the recognition and protection of his rights, yet he should be constantly and persistently reminded that every right has a corresponding duty. The rights of some citizens are the duties of other citizens. Rights and duties go hand in hand.

As a good example is better than a good precept, it becomes evident that the ethical organization of a school is of greater importance than ethical teaching. School government and class management are living and concrete examples of government, ever before the eyes of the pupil; therefore every act and every order on the part of adults in the schoolhouses should be carefully considered with a view of the effect on the pupils. One cannot expect obedience if one himself is not obedient; one cannot expect respect if one is not respected himself; one cannot expect pupils to practise virtues when the same are being violated by his elders. Unless a teacher be impressed with the belief that every action of his own is influencing the character of his pupils, he is not training them. In order that pupils may have actual experience in governing themselves, they should be released from constant guardianship, they should be given some responsibility and some opportunity for self-government by allowing them to manage or take an active part in managing the discipline of the school, the recitation, their own clubs, games, playgrounds, fire drills, opening exercises, entertainments, excursions, class and school libraries, athletic contests or class savings banks.

Pupils should be made to feel their responsibilities by being made responsible for something in the preservation of school property, in the tidiness of school premises and school rooms, and of the streets of the neighbourhood, and thereby learn that mutual assistance and co-operative service are the fundamental principles of all healthy self-government.

Pupils should be led to see that without law, liberty itself is impossible; that infractions of the law are injurious to the people individually and collectively, and that it is the duty of each citizen, young or old, to aid in the enforcement of the law. "Good laws, good administration, and the perpetuity of the government itself depend upon the manner in which the people discharge their public duties."
—Local Self-Government Gazette, India.

BRITISH COUNCILLORS IN ACTIVE WAR SERVICE.

The war has made great gaps in the ranks of British councillors. No less than 21 municipal reform members of the London County Councils are on service at the front. Naturally there is difficulty in manning the numerous committees of the council, and upon those members of the council who are able to continue their civic service falls a largely increased amount of work. The weekly meetings of the council since the recess have been remarkable for their unanimity and brevity. All parties on the council seem to have agreed to eliminate the party spirit and to conduct London government upon business lines. It is strange that one great aim of the London municipal society, for which they have striven earnestly should have been thus fully accomplished through an outbreak of war.

As regards the London borough councils, they also have lost many members who have gone on active service. Actual figures are not yet available, but probably a hundred borough councillors are serving their country.

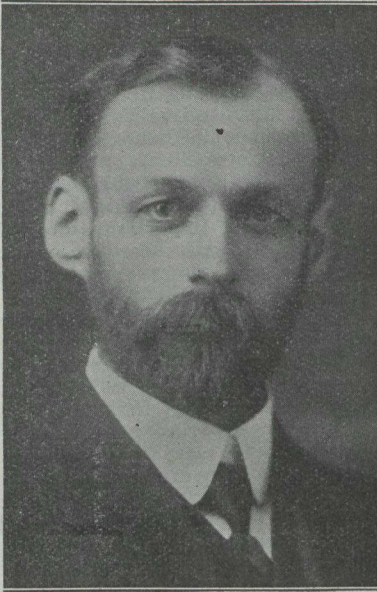
boys and men of all ages, innocent or vicious, wasting precious time listening to obscene questions, and language and being in an atmosphere utterly degrading.—
Woman's Century.

SOME BIG MUNICIPAL MEN

(By AJAX)

J. S. WOODSWORTH

The prairies of the country seem to have the special quality of inculcating virility into the human being — man or woman. They seem to have no weaklings out there—they get killed off — so that the Westerner wherever he might be, needs no energizing force to keep him in front — he is there all the time — whether in business or public



life. I don't know what special qualifications J. S. Woodsworth of the Canadian Welfare League had before he left Ontario for Manitoba but what I do know now is that he is a man's man. One would term him one of the greatest forces for Canadian citizenship of the right kind. To him it is a religion; and a good religion it is too. For the last three months J. S. has been down East opening the eyes of the people to the mighty immigration problems that beset Canada and the West in particular. He was booked for twenty-four lectures; he threw in seventy-five extra. But this is the point; every one was well worth listening to. He gave no abstract problem for a few thinkers to solve to their own satisfaction and in their own time. He presented concrete difficulties that have to be faced, if Canada is to come to her own, and preached of live people who are right amongst us. He surely did get the men thinking; and the result? There can only be one, a more intelligent interpretation of the responsibility of Canadian citizenship.

What Mr. Woodsworth has done in Montreal he has done in most parts of the country, but his work is not confined to speaking and preaching. Wherever he goes he starts something, and his last visit has been no exception, for in the commercial metropolis he founded a People's Forum, which up to this writing has been just five weeks in existence, but so successful as to make some of the leading citizens kick themselves for so much wasted time in the past.

The Montreal Forum is run along the same lines as that of Ottawa and Winnipeg, of which Woodsworth is secretary. He is equally sympathetic with the industrial and agricultural worker, which means he gives to each practical help.

Last year at the instance of the Grain Growers Association, who wanted something to keep the young people on the land, he prepared a syllabus by which the rural schools could be used in the evening for social life. The scheme was wonderfully successful, so much so that a new conception

of rural citizenship has spread over the Western country districts and even in the East.

But J. S. Woodsworth's great work is the Canadian Welfare League of which he is secretary. This League was founded some eighteen months ago in Winnipeg by a few friends to instill the ideas of citizenship along the broadest lines. The movement up to now has been confined to propagandist work—the funds having been supplied by a few public spirited men of Winnipeg. But if the work is to go along national lines, it is up to the people of Canada to support it. One certainly cannot conceive anything more conducive to the building up of a decent social life than the Canadian Welfare League—but please change the name. It smacks too much of goody-goodyness. But after all what's in a name?—the work is manly —and Canadian. That is the thing.

Mr. Woodsworth to take up his favorite work, gave up his church—his full name and title being Rev. J. S. Woodsworth, B. A., B. D., of the Methodist Church, and of which his father, Rev. Dr. J. W. Woodsworth is an ornament, though retired. But even Woodsworth's work in the church, being of a mission character, served as a training to some phases of the larger movement, of which he is the best exponent.

If one were asked to sum up J. S. Woodsworth's creed, one would quote an extract from one of his own articles, which reads as follows:—

“It would seem as if some day we would develop some sort of a “community fellowship.” It would be founded not on a common creed or common ceremonies or allegiance to a common institution. It would be founded on goodwill and a co-operative effort to provide for common needs and to realize common aspirations. Within this community fellowship there would be room for all sorts of little groups drawn together by belief or temperament, or personal attraction. The community fellowship would be, as it were, a vast and beautiful cathedral where all might meet and within which there would be room for many side-chapels.”

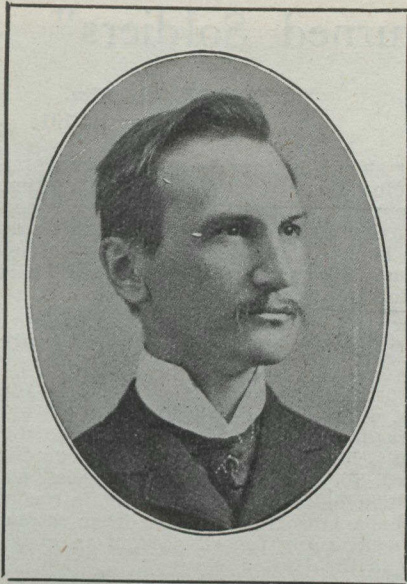
Any man who is living to bring about such a consummation deserves well of his fellows and Woodsworth is doing it every day.

DEMOCRACY AND EFFICIENCY.

There is no city in the United States in which the majority of the citizens do not prefer efficiency to inefficiency in municipal government. In none of these cities does a candidate for municipal office ever fail to promise that in the event of his election he will give—among other things—an efficient administration. His opponent promises the same thing and yet no matter who is elected, it is a notorious fact that thus far in American cities efficiency has been most frequently conspicuous by its absence. Critics from foreign lands and critics at home have pointed this fact out to us again and again.

In marked contrast to the frequently observed efficiency in most large enterprises and under some of the more autocratic governments, in our cities efficiency has seemed hitherto unattainable. Being so generally regarded as essential, this failure has given some pessimists an excuse for crying that democracy is a failure.

Our problem as a people is to conserve what we have acquired in the way of democracy—and extend it whenever we can—and at the same time develop the technique—the mechanics of government along effective lines. Bureau of Research, Philadelphia.



W. D. LIGHTHALL, M.A., K.C.
Ex-Mayor of Westmount.
Hon. Secretary,
Union of Canadian Municipalities.

A MESSAGE to the MUNICIPALITIES



We have asked the Honorary Secretary of the Union of Canadian Municipalities for a New Year's message to the municipalities of Canada, which is as follows:—

Notwithstanding the war, it seems wonderful to note how all our municipalities still have a sufficient revenue, if handled with economy and on good business principles. We have been saved from a threatening winter by the providential doubling of our usual harvest in the West, and the Dominion was never on a sounder basis than to-day. In view of the continuation of the war, however, the first watchword of 1916 must be PATRIOTISM, bending every effort to aid our troops. The second, RETRENCHMENT, vigorous, but wise. The third is to PREPARE for the dislocations to follow immediately at the close of the war, especially those of labor, immigration, and the returned soldiers. The last word is CONFIDENCE in the brightness of the future, both of our country and Empire, and of our municipalities.—Forward, the Canadians!

W. D. LIGHTHALL.

City Improvement League of Canada

The following circular letter has just been issued by the Commission of Conservation:

Ottawa, Dec. 22, 1915.

Dear Sir,—At a conference held at Ottawa on the 19th November last under the joint chairmanship of Sir Clifford Sifton (Commission of Conservation), Sir John Willison (Toronto), and the Hon. J. J. Guerin (Montreal), a resolution was passed to the effect that a Civic Improvement League be formed for Canada. The objects of the proposed League are described in the accompanying leaflet, of which I send you a few copies for distribution.

It was decided to hold a Conference in January next, for the purpose of launching the League and deciding upon its constitution. This Conference will be held at Ottawa, on Thursday, January 20th, following the annual meeting of the Commission of Conservation, to be held on the previous two days. Sir John Willison, Chairman of the Provisional Committee of the League, will preside at the opening session. It is hoped that this conference will be addressed by prominent public men and that important matters relating to civic government and future municipal developments in Canada will be discussed. In view of the present and probable after effects of the war on Canadian municipal life and on social conditions generally, there are many questions on which it is important to have an interchange of views between representatives of all provinces in the Dominion. These questions affect rural municipalities as well as cities and towns and will naturally include those which relate to the apportionment of responsibility between provincial governments

and local authorities in regard to such matters as public health, town planning, immigration, unemployment and the expenditure of public moneys.

I am requested to invite the attendance of delegates from the body with which you are connected, and shall be glad if you will bring the matter before an early meeting and advise me of their intentions.

If you have any suggestion to make as to a subject for discussion at the Conference I shall be glad to have your views.

Arrangements will be made to secure, to those attending the Conference, transportation at reduced rates.

In the event of acceptance of this invitation please send a list of the delegates and their addresses on or before the 10th of January next, so that a programme giving all particulars of the meeting and instructions regarding transportation can be sent to them.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES WHITE,
Assistant to Chairman.

CIVIC EDUCATION THE GREATEST NEED.

At the third annual convention of the League of Texas Municipalities, held November 11 and 12, with the largest attendance of the League's history, the greatest common need of the cities, as expressed by the officials present, was the need of civic education of their citizens to support the improvements which the officials are ready and anxious to make.

More Answers re "Our Duty to Returned Soldiers"

The Editor:—

Your letter containing an Editorial from "The Canadian Municipal Journal" on "Our Duty to Returned Soldiers" was placed before the City Council.

In this matter I may say that strong committees have been appointed from the citizens here for the purpose of undertaking the work alluded to in your Editorial.

Yours truly,

GEO. BEACH,
City Clerk.

TRANSCONA, Manitoba, Dec. 6, 1915.

The Editor:—

Re the editorial regarding returned soldiers, I am instructed by the Council to state that they are in sympathy with this movement, and will look after the returned soldiers who enlisted from this district.

Yours truly,

GEO. P. CAMPBELL,
Secty-Treas.

CITY OF VERNON, B.C., Dec. 2nd, 1915.

The Editor:—

Your circular letter was read at the regular meeting of the Council on Monday 29th, when the following committee was appointed: Mayor Smith, Aldermen Shatford and Alderman F. Costerton with power to add to their number from the citizens to take up the matter of receiving and welcoming the return of our soldier boys from the front.

The members of the Council unanimously agreed that your suggestion were good and that they will do all in their power to give any of the boys a warm reception on their return.

Yours truly,

J. G. EDWARDS, C.M.C.
City Clerk.

PICTON, N.S., December 7, 1915.

The Editor:—

Referring to your circular letter of the 18th ulto., to His Worship the Mayor, read at a meeting of the Council of the Town of Picton held last evening, we beg to advise you that the subject matter of same has the consideration of this and I believe other councils in this Province, judging by the reception given a number of our boys who have already returned from the front, and I have no doubt proper recognition will be given to all who return from time to time.

FRED. MACKARACHER,
Town Clerk.

VICTORIA, November 22, 1915.

The Editor:

I have your letter of the 15th inst., enclosing copy of a circular letter addressed to each of the municipalities of this Province, and accompanied by a copy of the Canadian Municipal Journal containing a special article on employment for returned soldiers, for which please accept my thanks. So far as the Province of British Columbia is concerned, I am sure that the municipalities are only too glad to do their share.

Yours faithfully
RICHARD McBRIDE,
Prime Minister.

STELLARTON, N.S., December 21, 1915.

EXTRACT OF MINUTES FROM STELLARTON TOWN COUNCIL, DECEMBER 6, 1915.

The Mayor read a communication from the Editor of the Canadian Municipal Journal, re editorial in the November issue of this Journal, in which it referred to our returning soldiers, and asking that some recognition be made.

The following resolution was passed, that the Council cordially endorse the suggestions contained in this article in the Canadian Municipal Journal, in reference to returned soldiers.

C. W. DICKSON,
Deputy Town Clerk.

LETHBRIDGE, Alta.

December 10, 1915.

The Editor:

The returned soldier should neither be a burden on himself nor on the Municipalities. It is a Dominion matter, and it is up to the Dominion to see that they are properly cared for. The Provincial Government and Municipalities might be able to help, and they will, but the soldier should not and must not be a charge upon them if he is to get all that is coming to him.

Alberta, in proportion to population, has enlisted most men, and for the same reason would be least able to care for them properly.

It must not be forgotten that the Patriot of '62 in the U. S. A. was the "bum" of '72, because the Government did not take adequate measures to protect the man who did his "bit" with the result that later these men got together and formed themselves, for protection, into a great political organization which did not only result in fair consideration, but has been a powerful political organization, which has compelled what many regard now as an abuse of the pension system in the United States.

The soldier did his duty for the Dominion under the Dominion organization, and management. That Government must do its duty not only by the returning soldier as he returns, but for the balance of his life, and even beyond that if his family require it.

There is too much "Whoop Hurrah" when the soldier starts out and too little thought about his future. Keep up the spirit, Citizen, that nothing is too good for "the boys," and see that he gets all that is coming to him, and forget his little slips and follies.

Lethbridge Khaki League, recognized by the Alberta Provincial Committee of the Military Hospitals Commission as the official "Returned Soldiers' Bureau" for this District, was formed at a public meeting on November 2, when a committee representing the Civic authorities, Lethbridge Home Guard, I. O. D. E., Women's Civic Club, Patriotic Fund Committee and representative citizens, was elected.

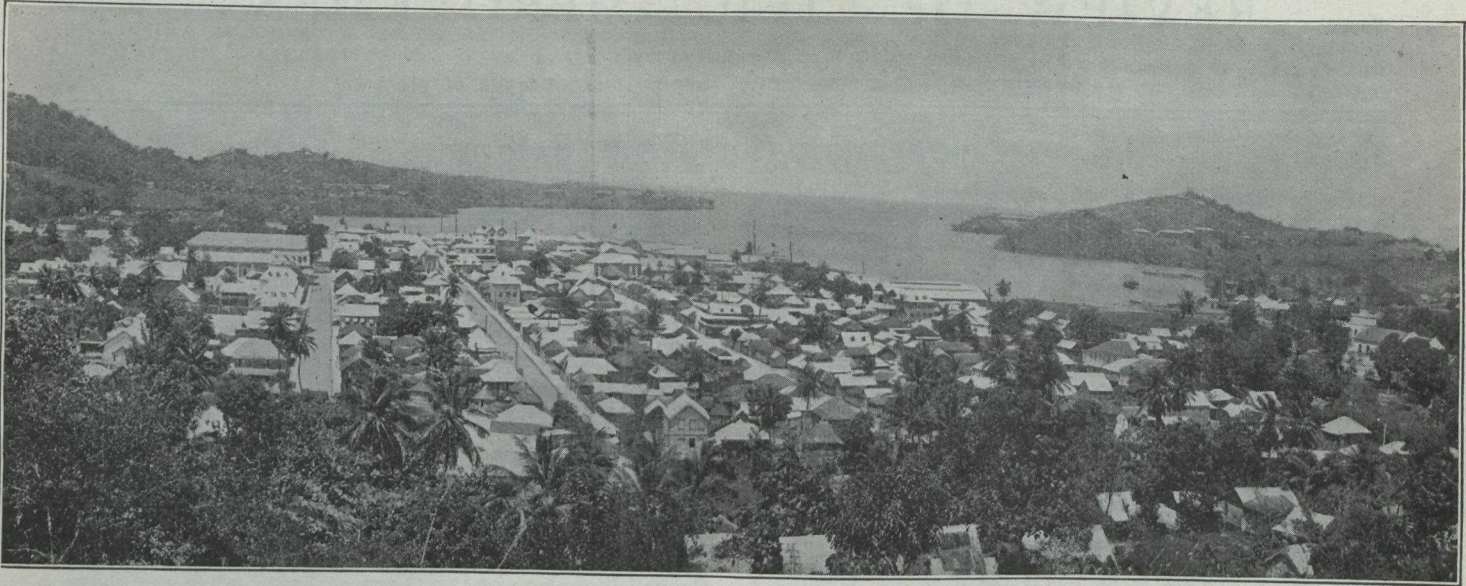
This committee is divided up to meet the trains in alternate weeks, and in addition to being in intimate touch with similar organizations at other principal points across the Continent, has local arrangements for the proper reception, care and treatment of these men.

Yours truly,
N. D. L. HARDIE,
Mayor.

WORK FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Credit must be given the Canadian Municipal Journal for having taken the leadership in the movement to provide employment for return soldiers. Not only did the Municipal Journal deal with this editorially, but through its excellent connection with the various civic bodies throughout Canada, it got into direct touch with the proper authorities, with the result that concerted movement has been made to provide work for the men returning from the front.

In connection with the providing of work for the returned soldiers, the Canadian Municipal Journal advocates the formation of a National Labor Bureau. Labor exchanges have been successfully tried out in Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, France, and in the majority of the more progressive countries throughout the world. In Canada we have neglected our immigrants and out-of-works, with the result that the majority of them congregate in the cities and add to the complexity of our social and industrial problems. Even under normal conditions our machinery has proven itself faulty. What will it do when thousands of soldiers return from the front and seek positions? Unless there be some organization ready to grapple with the problem, we will have confusion worse confounded, and thousands of willing but partially incapacitated soldiers will be made to suffer. Now is the time to organize and provide for future contingencies. Governments, cities and large employers of labor should get together and formulate some scheme of providing work for returned soldiers.—Journal of Commerce.



PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD, B. W. I.

Canada and the British West Indies

By WATSON GRIFFIN.

Under the title of "Canada and the British West Indies" the Department of Trade and Commerce has just published the report of Watson Griffin, who was sent by Sir George Foster to the British West Indies to study local conditions and the opportunities for the Canadian exporter under the reciprocity pact. Sending a trained journalist as a commissioner was an innovation, but the result, as shown in the excellent report shows the wisdom of the choice. The book itself is probably the best perspective one could get of the possibilities of the islands under encouraging conditions. The pen descriptions of the different islands — the life of the natives and their position in the social make-up and the ambitions of the white race—are so well done as to deserve a place in the bookshelves of the most fastidious student. These descriptions would seem to some out of place in a commercial report, but to those who really count such a knowledge will be invaluable for has not Great Britain secured her world-wide trade more on her knowledge of the human side of those with whom she deals rather than on bare statistics, which too often tell nothing. John Bull is not so prosaic in his commerce as some would have us believe, and his mixing of romance and trade has been very profitable.

And so the reader of Mr. Watson's report will be particularly interested in and grateful for the reference to Robinson's Crusoe's islands — Tobago and Trinidad. The descriptions of the cities and islands show them to be on a par with that of Canada and the public spirit shown by the business men, and even officials, will do much more in creat-

ing a feeling of confidence amongst Canadian investors, than any dry figures might do.

In his analysis of the imports, particularly of goods that should be supplied by Canada, **but are not**, Mr. Griffin is careful to give the reasons why the people of the West Indies want the commodities and even where they are partially supplied by this country—such as flour, wheat, etc., useful details are given which should result in better trade in these articles. For instance, the commissioner points out the necessity of packing flour for British Guiana in smaller and stronger packages for conveyance on mule teams to the far inland camps.

In securing his information and data, Mr. Griffin has not confined his enquiries to the official class, for scattered throughout the book are conversations with the importer, the merchant and even the consumer and the value of his conclusions are correspondingly enhanced.

As already pointed out, quite a feature has been made of the social life of the islands. Here Mr. Griffin has had an opportunity of testing his knowledge of human nature; which from his large experience in Canadian journalism is profound. That he has succeeded is best illustrated in the report itself, which because of this added element, will be read with keener interest than the ordinary report. It is to be hoped that "Canada and the British West Indies" will not be buried amongst the tons of blue books sent out annually from Ottawa, but that it will be properly brought before the Canadian public. It certainly deserves a good place.

REVIEW OF CIVIC IMPROVEMENT

Conducted by

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

Co-operation for Civic Reform

The members of the City Improvement League of Montreal will be glad to hear of the establishment of a central organization for the general civic improvement of the Dominion, which was organized in November at Ottawa, at a meeting convened under the auspices of the Commission of Conservation and its Bureau of Town Planning and Housing, of which Mr. Thomas Adams is the executive head.

The aim and scope of the Civic Improvement League of Canada is seen in the following resolution then passed:

"That a Civic Improvement League for Canada be formed with the object of promoting the study and advancement of the best principles 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 share taken by the City Improvement League of Montreal since 1913 in the promotion of the steps leading up to the above organization is well-known to our members as the proceedings have been chronicled in these pages.

The League of Montreal may claim to have carried out since its inception the aim and scope of Civic improvement, as above outlined. With regard to the study of Municipal affairs the League has taken since 1909 a foremost part in securing good government methods. This year particularly the City Improvement League has been called upon to take the leading part in convening the forces making for the better administrative government of the city. In this the local League is carrying out the desire of the New Central organization which would have such a League of good citizens established in every community, village, town or city of the Dominion, ready to initiate or co-operate in all such movements for the betterment of our Canadian Civic life in the search for governmental reform, whether they are concerned with the municipal affairs or with the products of governmental measures—Civic, Provincial or Federal—in as far as they may help or hamper those manifold sociological activities of City League life, such as town planning, housing and general education in right living, which radically depend for success on the attainment and maintenance of a good form of civic government administered by honest and enlightened rulers.

The attainment of Good Government being the fountain spring of all hope for Civic Improvement, the City Improvement League has especial need at times to concentrate all its energies on this point. The following report of this side of the League's activities will be found, it is hoped, welcome to our members and all who are interested in the larger movement for Civic life under the title of the "Civic Improvement League of Canada."

CIVIC REFORM FOR MONTREAL.

The necessity for co-operation by citizens in good government for Montreal was emphasized at the annual meeting of the City Improvement League on April 30th last.

In consequence, at a meeting of the Executive Committee held on June 3rd following, a Legislative committee was appointed by the president, the Hon. J. J. Guerin, M.D. This committee with the concurrence of representatives of other associations, met regularly during the summer, and as a basis of study, the secretary of the City Improvement League was instructed to draw up a report indicating the municipal situation of Montreal and the theories being advanced for a proposed change in the form of civic administration. In consequence, such a statement was prepared, which appeared in the Canadian Municipal Journal of July, and which, reprinted as a bulletin, was sent to each of the members of the League and to leading organizations whose members study civic matters. After a period had been allowed for criticism and suggestions by individuals and by the press, a general meeting was called of the City Improvement League on October 8th, when a set of recommendations to be used as the frame of a bill to be presented to the Quebec Legislature was put before the members for adoption.

At the request of several, the set of recommendations was not then communicated to the press but was held back to give the other organizations an opportunity of further study of the details proposed, the object being to obtain a full and representative adhesion to one form of government, which should go to the public as one backed after mature deliberation, by responsible city associations.

Further joint meetings of the "Composite" committee as it began to be called were held, and among those organizations represented were: The City Improvement League (convenor), the Montreal Board of Trade, the Chambre de Commerce, the Trades and Labor Council, the Citizens' Association, Builders' Exchange, the Business Men's League, The Canadian Manufacturers Association, the Laurier Ward, the St. Lawrence Ward, the Voters' Leagues, etc.

The last meeting occurred on December 3rd in the Council Chambers of the Board of Trade, when the above associations were represented, with the exception of the Chambre de Commerce, whose report was not ready.

The following resolutions, which were adopted unanimously have been communicated to the press and have appealed by their sanity to the "major et senior pars" of the citizens.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(Adopted December 3, 1915).

1. The City shall be governed by a Mayor, **four** Commissioners and **fifteen** Aldermen.
 2. The Mayor and the Commissioners shall be elected by the people at large, but the Aldermen shall be elected three from each of **five** large electoral divisions or districts.
 3. At all elections for Commissioners and Aldermen, each elector shall vote for neither **more** nor **less** candidates, than the number called for by the vacancies to be filled at such elections.
 4. The Mayor shall preside over the Council; he shall also be ex-Officio Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, who in his absence shall elect a chairman from amongst themselves. The Mayor shall have no vote except in the case of a tie, when he shall have the casting vote.
 5. The functions of the Aldermanic Board shall be as heretofore, Legislative; the functions of the Board of Commissioners shall be Executive, as provided for in the present charter.
 6. The Mayor and the Aldermen shall be elected to office for a period of Two years. The commissioners shall be elected for a period of Four years in such a way that half of their number shall retire every second year.
 7. The annual salary of the Mayor shall be \$10,000, that of each of the Commissioners shall be \$7,500, that of each of the Aldermen \$1,500, provided that the number of Aldermen be fifteen.
- (Moved by Mr. J. Foster, President of the Trades and Labor Council, seconded by Mr. U. H. Dandurand, Vice-President of the City Improvement League and carried unanimously.)

NOTES ON ABOVE.

These recommendations being the result of a close impartial study of the many forms of civic government adopted elsewhere, or discussed here, reveal that the "Composite" Committee, believing rather in the importance of election of better men, than of the framing of an ideally perfect constitution have been conservative in their dealing with the existing charter.

1. Clause 1 reveals that the dual Board of Commis-

sioners and aldermen established in 1910 was reaffirmed, but in the diminution of the number of aldermen from thirty-two to fifteen, a blow was given to the old ward system.

The only discussion arising here was on the number of commissioners—four, five or six?

2. Clause 2 reveals that while the commissioners should be elected at large as hitherto, there should be five large districts with three aldermen elected from each district. This cutting off the thirty-two wards, gives another stab to the "small ward" politician, who hitherto had still an opportunity of feathering his nest in a small district. It is hoped that with larger districts, bigger and more representative citizens will be called in to legislate for the city as a whole.

N.B. This clause caused most discussion in committee. One party strongly advanced that the commissioners should be elected by property owners at large, others that one at least of the three aldermen in each district should be then elected representative of the property owners in that district.

Finally the principle of democracy prevailed as the recommendation now stands.

N.B., 2. That following tentative form of the redistribution of the city into five districts formed from the amalgamation of contiguous wards was accepted as a working basis for adoption in the bill.

Proposed Division of the City of Montreal Into Five Electoral Districts.

EAST DISTRICT		NORTH DISTRICT	
Delorimier	3,705	St. Denis	12,208
St. Mary	5,565	Ahuntsic	1,029
Hochelaga	5,889	Bordeaux	992
Rosemount	432	Mount Royal	792
Longue Pointe	1,841	Cote des Neiges	208
Papineau	8,730	Laurier	10,498
	26,162		25,717
WEST DISTRICT		SOUTH DISTRICT	
St. Lawrence	5,481	West	1,659
St. Georges	3,452	St. Ann	5,183
St. Andrew	3,634	St. Gabriel	4,464
St. Joseph	4,441	Ste. Cunegonde	2,553
N. D. de Grace	2,994	St. Henry	6,975
	20,002	St. Paul	910
		Emard	1,773
			23,517
CENTRE DISTRICT			
St. Louis	6,477		
East	786		
St. James	3,375		
Lafontaine	5,794		
St. Jean Baptiste	5,405		
Duvernay	3,512		
Centre	1,242		
	26,592		

3. Clause 3 legislating for "No plumping" was never at any time challenged.

4. Clause 4, regulating the position of the mayor in regard to the Board of Commissioners caused much discussion. There were some who would have the mayor entirely relieved from the administrative functions of this Board. But it was finally conceded that the mayor should be the "Go Between" for the Commissioners and Aldermen, but as it was not necessary that he should always preside, there were occasions when it might be necessary, such as when a casting vote was requested. In contra-distinction to the mayor's power, according to the existing Charter, the mayor therefore in future would have no vote as a member of the Board of Commissioners, except as said in the case of the casting vote.

5. Clause 5 makes no change in the Charter. It is here inserted to draw attention more clearly to the various functions of the two bodies, as marked out by the previous Charter amendments, but which have not been always acquiesced in by the Aldermanic Board.

5. Clause 6 is a reaffirmation of the previous Status quo.

7. Clause 6, introduces a change in the salary of the aldermen, that previously being \$1,000 annually.

8. There is no clause recommending a "recall"; this being not because of the doubt of the principle which seemed to be adopted, but because of the difficulty at present of agreement on the adoption of any such form.

Before, however, the above recommendations are draft-

ed into a bill, provisions may still be made for a recall.

The above form of recommendations being adopted unanimously, the principle of co-operation in civic governmental reforms was further accentuated the following resolution, moved by Mr. C. S. J. Phillips (Acting President of the Citizens' Association), and seconded by Mr. G. F. Benson (President of the Montreal Board of Trade).

Resolved unanimously:—

"That the properly authorized representatives of the different organizations represented on the "Composite" Committee,

1. Do constitute a Committee of Electors of Montreal to put into operation the above resolutions and to prepare a bill for the coming session of the Legislature of Quebec—and,

2. That the present Chairman, Hon. J. J. Guerin, (President of the City Improvement League) does act as President of this Committee and furthermore,

3. That this Committee has power to add to its numbers.

CITY GOVERNANCE.

(By R. O. WYNNE ROBERTS.)

(Concluded from last month.)

In newer countries, there are relatively few persons with leisure, and many who will serve on the City Council are unable to give it the time it requires, hence the reason for the election of Controllers or the appointment of Commissioners. The Councillors and Aldermen should constitute the legislative body, and the work of administration should devolve upon the permanent executive officials—City Commissioners. These Commissioners would be men of experience in civic affairs. Each Province would create a Local Government Board, which would have control over all capital expenditures. The City Commissioners would be approved by the Board, and their removal would first have to be sanctioned by the Board, after holding a public local enquiry. The Local Government Board would be an independent body in each Province, responsible only to the Legislature. They would be appointed for a certain term. No new loans would be authorized by the Board without holding public local enquiries, at which evidence for and against would be submitted. No work executed out of capital would be undertaken until the scheme and loan had been duly sanctioned. The City books would be audited by this Board, and unauthorized capital expenditure would be disallowed. When a petition had been presented to the Board, with regard to questions of maladministration or misapplication of funds, it would be incumbent on the Board to hold public local enquiries, at which evidence on oath would be presented, and after mature consideration of the evidence by the Board, a report would be sent to the City Council. It will be observed that the foregoing suggestions are in advance of the Boston Finance Committee, and are in general an application of the powers conferred by Parliament on the British Local Government Board, although that Board does not possess all these powers in respect to City Councils whilst they have them in respect to other authorities.

The writer has on previous occasions advocated the creation of Local Government Boards, when dealing with the question of municipal loans. One Province has established such a board, but it is now endowed with powers such as those suggested herein, although its powers are fairly comprehensive. It is highly essential to have some authority that is removed from the influence of politics and passions. That it is possible to establish such a Board is proved by the satisfaction given by the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada. Some of the Public Utility Commissions of the States are also examples of state constituted bodies to control matters affecting the public. The Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission and the Public Utility Commission of Manitoba are further examples of authorities possessing the confidence of the public. It is equally possible to create Local Government Boards which will command public confidence and esteem.

Having expressed some of his views on this very interesting and absorbing subject, the writer, after studying the situation generally in this and other countries, desires it to be understood that the suggestions made are in skeleton form, and are therefore subject to modification and elaborations, which may be deemed expedient to adopt after further consideration. It is only by mutual co-operation and a free expression of opinions that systems which are weak can be strengthened and disintegrating symptoms can be removed.

Municipal Prohibition in Quebec

By JOHN H. ROBERTS.

Fifteen years ago the Province of Quebec gave a majority of 94,324 against the prohibition of the liquor traffic. At that time every province voted on the question in the plebiscite organized by the Federal Government. Quebec was the only province that gave a majority in favor of the continuance of the licensing system in relation to the liquor traffic.

On May 1st last, the first day of the provincial license year, there were 906 municipalities of the 1,143 in the province which had adopted and maintained the no-license attitude to the bar-room and the sale of drink. To-day the proportion is much higher for the movement for the abolition of the liquor traffic in the province, which has forged ahead with an amazing swing in the intervening months. Important industrial cities such as Three Rivers (population 19,000), Lachine (population 13,824), and Levis (population 7,264), have adopted prohibition, while many towns, such as Grand 'Mere, Shawinigan Falls, Terrebonne, Louisville, St. Agathe, and whole counties like Brome and Argenteuil, have, in the popular phrase, gone "dry."

There are in the province of Quebec 72 county municipalities. Of this number, 42 are either without licenses altogether, or, as in the case of Argenteuil and Brome counties, will become so on May 1st, 1916. Of the sixteen cities eight are in the "dry" class. Nor is this all. There are proceeding at the present moment campaigns for prohibition in at least seven counties, while places like Sorel, Joliette, St. Ours, St. Hyacinthe will also have votes on the question soon. To crown all, the city of Quebec, the Ancient Capital of the Province, is "lining up" for a prohibition vote, and its example will be immediately followed by the metropolis of Canada, Montreal.

There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that the whole province of Quebec will be living under no-license conditions before the end of 1917. If it were not that I do not wish to appear too sanguine I would fix an earlier date. But because I know, as not many others know, what is being planned and purposed, I do not hesitate to prophesy what I have foretold. Six years ago a leading wholesale liquor-dealer of Montreal said to me that the prohibition wave was subsiding (it was already "some" wave even at that time.) Said he, "I can see the mist of it in the air as it disappears." The facts I have given will serve to show the poor prophet he was.

Now it may well be asked by the people of the other parts of Canada, "what has brought about this wonderful transformation in the province of Quebec?" The answer is two-fold. First, the character of our provincial laws in relation to the liquor traffic. Second, and most important, the tremendous power of the Church in civic reform. When I realize all that this means and involves and remember the struggles of civic reformers for municipal advance and improvement I cannot but feel that we often much-derided temperance reformers "have the bulge" on the ordinary civic reformer. We have utilized the unlimited moral force of the most powerful agency for social uplift in the world, and by its aid we are winning. When the other civic reformers do likewise they will win also. Of course, temperance is a moral question. But is not sanitation a moral question? The health of the people, the good government of towns and cities, the elimination of temptation of other kinds than drink, the saving of the babies, are these not all moral questions? Let me not be misunderstood. I do not wish to claim that the Church imposes its will upon the electors of the province of Quebec. Far from it. The priest is a power in the prohibition fight in this province. But it is only fair for one like myself, a Protestant, who knows, to here vindicate the worthy cures of Quebec from a grossly unfair charge that has been made against them, viz.: that they have compelled their people to vote for prohibition. So far is this not the case that time and again the parish priests have said to me, when urged to launch prohibition campaigns in their parishes: "We cannot carry that for a year or two. We must educate our people up to it first or we shall lose." And the process of education is carried on most assiduously by means of lectures, exhibitions of temperance posters and pictures, the circulation of literature, etc. I know this perhaps better than any other non-Roman Catholic in Canada.

Our laws, as I have said, help us. We are not at all limited to one particular method. Except in the cities of Montreal and Quebec, where License Commissions are

the licensing authorities, the municipal council has control of the issue and non-issue of liquor licenses. The municipal council may refuse to grant any licenses at all, and often does. No power in the province can compel such a body to grant a license if it chooses not to do so. The electors by a bare majority opposition can prevent the council granting any licenses. Then any thirty electors may demand the submission of a prohibitory by-law to the electors for their approval or otherwise, and a bare majority suffices to adopt or reject, as the case may be. Further, the County Council has power to adopt a county prohibitory by-law, the effect of which is to prohibit the sale of drink and the issuing of licenses therefor in every local municipality comprised within the county municipality. Then, of course, every county or city may vote under the provisions of the Canada Temperance Act, under which one city, Thetford Mines, and one county, Brome, have successfully vetoed the issue of licenses, while other counties are proceeding in like manner. It is by the utilization of existing laws that the temperance reformers of Quebec have made seventy-nine per cent of the municipalities of the province "dry."

There is one most amazing feature about the votes on prohibition in the province of Quebec, and that is, the tremendous majorities secured for prohibition. No other province of Canada, no State of the American Union, indeed, no country in the world, can match us in this regard. A few days ago, the town of Louisville saw 450 electors voting for prohibition, and only one for license. Two months ago the city of Levis had a nine to one majority for prohibition. Yesterday, December 22nd, Terrebonne voted. Result: for prohibition, 192; for license, 18. In the town of Shawville, entirely Protestant, by the way, prohibition was carried unanimously. In the township of Longueuil, almost entirely Roman Catholic, no vote was cast against prohibition. The electors were unanimous for prohibition. Lake Megantic saw only one vote for license. As happens in many places, the liquor dealers threw up the sponge. Two years ago in Lake Megantic the liquor element worked hard to repeal prohibition. They secured 22 votes, prohibition got 220. Huntingdon Village made it unanimous except for one vote. And many other places tell the same tale. As the boys say, "you can't beat it."

It is frequently argued in the neighbouring province of Ontario that the three-fifths majority which is there required to adopt prohibition is necessary, first, to secure due enforcement of the law and, secondly, to give prohibition permanence. The experience of this province gives the lie to that. The law is enforced as well in the province of Quebec as in the province of Ontario, better than in some parts, while we practically never have a repeal contest in this province. In six years I only recall one attempt to repeal prohibition, viz., Lake Megantic. And it must be borne in mind that a bare majority is all that is required to repeal prohibition as to carry it. Ontario requires a three-fifths majority to repeal prohibition, but it has more repeal contests by far than Quebec, which practically has none.

While this process of the elimination of the liquor traffic has been going on in the smaller municipalities there has also been a great many improvements secured in regard to license conditions in the cities. A process of reduction of licenses is now in operation in Montreal by which 123 bar-rooms and 198 licensed groceries are to disappear. An early closing law has been in existence for several years by which every licensed place closes at eleven o'clock, on the first five nights of the week, and at seven p.m. on Saturdays, remaining closed until 7.30 a.m. each week-day. In Quebec City 39 licenses were wiped out at one stroke by the Legislature, and ten more bar-rooms went out of existence there on May 1st last.

To the civic reformers of Canada I would give this message: keep your eye on Quebec. It is progressive, enlightened, and democratic, and contains within itself the materials for the most advanced developments in municipal activity. We are not without our faults. We have great difficulties because of the dual language, and the differences of racial temperament. But the temperance movement has mastered these circumstances, and if the complete unity they have practised and maintained can be applied to the other municipal and social problems Quebec will lead Canada in every line of social and municipal reform.

Municipal Finance

JAMES MURRAY.

TWO GOOD FINANCIAL REPORTS.

In previous issues these columns have urged the municipalities to place their finances in the hands of the best men possible to secure, and then trust them. As examples of the value of such experts to the municipality we have before us the reports of the cities of Edmonton and Saskatoon, both of which show not only a large retrenchment, but an efficient administration kept up as well; though the cities are controlled along different lines from each other. In the city of Edmonton the finances were placed last year in the hands of a comptroller—N. Mouat, C.A.—who introduced the startling, but very sensible innovation of auditing before goods were ordered, which—in the language of Mayor Henry—"means that before goods are purchased and liability in the City's name incurred, it is ascertained that the goods are necessary, and the prices right." The result has been a large saving.

In the report of the City of Saskatoon, Commissioner Yorath shows that by efficient management he has not only reduced the city's liabilities considerably, but has reduced the assessment by 21 per cent, and kept the total tax rate down to 17.50 mills. The fact that Mr. Yorath, as Commissioner, has the responsibility of the whole administration of Saskatoon makes the report more remarkable.

To get down to essentials in municipal finance, even in these days of hard money, is no light task, but, as shown in the examples of Edmonton and Saskatoon, not impossible. But the right men must be in control.

Official Efficiency.

The question of official efficiency has been brought to our notice time and time again, and the experience of this department has been that with a few fine exceptions, who soon become known and appreciated accordingly, the average financial official of the municipality—be his title what it may—knows very little of municipal finance; and what is worse, he doesn't know his shortcoming. The consequence is that he is not fitted to advise his council in the best ways and means of carrying on the financial business of the municipality. To him the whole thing is mere bookkeeping—that of his grandfather's—whereas if he would open his eyes and study conditions elsewhere—particularly in towns or cities of the same population as his—study such articles as that by Thomas Bradshaw on "Some Notes on Municipal Finance," and exchange and digest financial reports with other municipalities, he would become really valuable to the members of the council, who not being experts themselves, must rely on someone for information, if not advice. Annual statements are cases in point as showing the aptitude, or inaptitude, of the officials in their preparation. Some of them have wondrous figures, but they tell you nothing—just figures, while, of course, some statements are lucid enough to tell their own story, without much explanation.

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Another criticism of the efficiency, or non-efficiency, of the municipal treasurer, is in his knowledge of bond issues. It is well for the municipalities that our principal bond and financial houses have really got at heart the welfare of the municipalities sufficiently to see that the bonds are properly prepared and issued, though it takes up their valuable time and money, otherwise chaos would reign in many municipal offices. This is strictly the treasurer's business, but how many of them know the first thing about it?

WANTED—MORE EXPLICIT CIVIC ACCOUNTING.

For a long time this journal has urged a more uniform and simplified system of civic accounting—something which the average ratepayer could easily understand. We have even published a form prepared by Mr. H. J. Ross (who is an expert in municipal accounting) which is at once simple and thorough, but civic officials still go on preparing financial statements so complicated as to be beyond the comprehension of even experts. The following criticism, taken from "Canadian Finance," is equally applicable to many more municipalities than the city of Winnipeg.

What a tortuous maze he treads who adventures through the close-printed pages and inserted schedules of an average city's financial report. Winnipeg's annual compilation is not chiefest among sinners in this regard. There are some denser (as well as several much clearer) sets of accounts issued by Canadian municipalities. But honest criticism, like charity, had best begin at home. Therefore the 1915 printed report of Winnipeg's city comptroller will here be briefly considered—not in any carping spirit, but with a view to furthering the movement toward more explicit statements of municipal business throughout the Dominion.

Winnipeg's published accounts start out with a general balance sheet—but in a form that at once contains too little and too much. It essays to combine both capital and current items—with too much involved detail for a quick-bird's-eye view, but with not enough to afford all the information desirable. Seemingly preferable would be a briefer consolidated balance sheet, based upon and combining detailed separate balance sheets of the city's capital account and of the general current account (neither of which balance sheets is now set out), as well as including the separate accounts of the hydro-electric and waterworks systems together with that of the sinking fund.

Considerable study and re-arranging of figures in the present general balance sheet is necessary before arriving at the city's financial position with regard to current assets and liabilities as distinguished from those on capital account—the former being such assets and liabilities as ensue from the general taxation and the operating accounts and the latter having to do with stock and debentures issued and the assets representing them. There would also appear other items pertaining to the capital account such as cash, accounts receivable and payable, stores and so forth. It would seem desirable, too, that current assets and liabilities should be classified as to their rate of convertibility into cash and cash payments respectively.

In the matter of its expenditure, Winnipeg's present form of accounts makes difficult a ready distinction between capital and current items. Any detailed information regarding the year's capital expenditure has to be gleaned from an incomplete abstract of cash disbursements which does not include expenditures incurred indirectly through stores and so forth. Very desirable is a statement of the year's capital expenditure containing in columnar form the expenditure by units: (1) to the end of the preceding year, (2) during the year under report, (3) at the end of such year, (4) amount of stock or debentures issued, (5 and 6) amount over-expended or under-expended. At the present time there is nothing to show that the expenditures correspond to what was estimated or whether they exceed the estimates. This information is all the more necessary in view of the fact that contracts are awarded to the engineering department in competition with private concerns, and it is only if the cost under this method does not exceed the estimated figure that such policy is justified. The ratepayers are entitled to this explicit information.

WINNIPEG'S NET DEBT REDUCED.

Addressing the People's Forum at Winnipeg recently, the city's corporation counsel, Theo. A. Hunt, K.C., dealt interestingly with methods and problems of civic financing. For some years Mr. Hunt has publicly urged ratepayers to take a more interested part in municipal affairs. Speaking for the City Hall, he expressed strong approval of any means that might be taken towards organized citizen study, and criticism, of civic administration.

That Winnipeg's net debt decreased \$915,837.33 last year was pointed out by Mr. Hunt. The figures are:

Gross debt April 30, 1915	\$42,050,324.84
Sinking fund in hand	5,772,330.95
	<hr/>
	\$36,277,993.89

URGES ECONOMY.

Before the adoption by the Verdun City Council of the yearly budget, involving a general tax of three quarters of one cent in the dollar, Mayor Manning urged the necessity for every committee to use the utmost care in keeping expenditure within the appropriation, declaring that in former years it had been impossible to collect the full amount of taxes due, while during the current year there was no reason to anticipate improvement. While the total estimated revenue for the year beginning November 1, 1915, was \$309,029, exceeding appropriations by \$52,039, it was pointed out that the total estimated revenue included arrears of \$69,180. Mayor Manning, who had for some years been chairman of the finance committee in the former councils, declared his belief that unless more energetic measures were taken to collect current taxes and arrears, revenue would not equal appropriations.

AN INNOVATION IN MUNICIPAL FINANCE.

The city of Calgary has taken a new line 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 are now due 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 on December 1, 1916; \$700,000 on December 1, 1917; \$700,000 on December 1, 1918. 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 60 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 on December 30, 1915, and any profit on account of the favorable rate of exchange is to go to them.

RAYMOND UNWIN.

Mr. Raymond Unwin, F.R.I.B.A., who succeeded Mr. Thomas Adams as chief town planning inspector to the Local Government Board, has been elected president of the Town Planning Institute, in succession to Mr. Adams.

INVESTING OF SINKING FUND.

The auditors of the City of Regina make some pertinent remarks in reference to the investing of the sinking fund in the securities of the city. The extract reads as follows:

"The propriety of investing sinking fund moneys in the securities of the same city is a subject on which opinions differ. For short-term securities and with a moderate limit on the amount we do not take exception to the practice. Regina has about 40 per cent thus invested which we consider high, but future deposits will tend to reduce the percentage. The terms of the debentures average about fifteen years which is longer than we would care to advocate. Since these securities were allocated to the sinking fund, it has become necessary to submit propositions of this kind to the local government board and that body can safely be relied upon take all proper precautions to ensure that the sinking fund does not become overburdened with city securities."

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TWO LETTERS WHICH TELL THEIR OWN TALE.

Municipal Hall,
Edmonds, B. C.

November 29th, 1915

To the Chairman of the
Finance Committee,
Corporation of the District of Burnaby.

Mr. Chairman:—

The matter I wish to bring before your Committee is perhaps you will agree, one of grave importance, viz:—the necessity of a defined plan for dealing with the financial problem of the Municipality. In a few brief remarks I would state my appreciation of the earnest effort of your Committee to deal with questions of finance during the year 1915, but I must talk plainly and intimate that we will act wisely and well if careful consideration at this time, be given to safeguarding the future.

I speak now of the Treasury Certificate Issue of 1913, which falls due in less than one year from date. This will necessitate provision being made for raising \$1,250,000.00 to liquidate that liability. This Issue, you are aware, bears 6 per cent per annum, and is a very heavy charge annually upon the Corporation, viz:—\$75,000.00 per annum. This amount added to the Sinking Fund and interest charges for bonds previously issued and sold, together with bank interest, amounts to in round figures, \$200,000.00 per annum. This, Sir, I claim is an excessive load, and your duty to the ratepayers is to REDUCE THE BURDEN.

Careful consideration of the situation will lead you to prepare and bring down at once, plans for taking care of our liabilities and providing for a reduction of those heavy charges. Your Committee will be most willing and anxious, I am sure, to assist in putting into force A GOOD SOUND FEASIBLE PLAN FOR THE RETRIEVEMENT OF BURNABY.

I suggest that the Debentures which are unsold, but hypothecated, be cancelled because they are unsuited for the market, to-day. The interest rate is insufficient, and the long term Sinking Fund Debentures is looked upon with disfavour.

We would do well to make a new issue in lieu of these, one that will appeal to the investor, and be suitable for the changed Monetary conditions, and which can be sold without being subject to a ruinous discount. It will be necessary to arrange details with the School Board as it will affect the School By-law Issue, and should that Board wish to take advantage of the plan you suggest, all unsold Debentures could be converted.

You may find it necessary to take drastic measures to attain the desired results, but I urge the necessity of the occasion, and leave the matter in your hands.

(Signed) HUGH M. FRASER,

Reeve.

December 6th, 1915.

To the Reeve and Councillors,

CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY.

Gentlemen:—

Having in mind the warning given, and the suggestion made by His Worship the Reeve at the last Meeting of the Finance Committee, in reference to the financial situation of this Corporation, in 1916, I have given the matter most earnest consideration, not only during the time intervening since that Meeting, but also during the whole of the past year.

While it is true that the Treasury Certificate Issue must be redeemed on November 17th, 1916, and for that purpose \$1,250,000 will be required, there is another point which has possibly been somewhat lost sight of. I refer to the clause in the Agreement with Spitzer, Rorick and Co., and the Equitable Trust Co., which provides that if the Debentures are not sold before September 1st, 1916, the Trustees shall have the right to sell the said Debentures at the best price obtainable, and apply the proceeds to the redemption of the Treasury Certificates.

If this were to happen, the Taxpayers of Burnaby would be in the position of having to provide Sinking Fund and Interest for \$1,716,000 and possibly also a portion of the debt of \$1,250,000, as it is more than probable that the sale of the Debentures would not realize \$1,250,000 to which I will refer later. I would also like to remind you that when we say "Next year the Treasury Certificates are due," it must be borne in mind that after the Election of the new Council, only seven months remain in which to act.

To come now to the matter of fixed charges. A reduction can be made by reducing the Bonded Debt, and I am prepared to recommend the absolute cancellation of \$716,000 Debentures. What this means in Interest and Sinking Fund, you, gentlemen, will of course, readily realize.

Now as to a new issue. The Debentures as they now stand, are unsealable except at a heavy discount. There is no mere assertion, but a statement of fact. It is therefore imperative, that any new issue should be in accordance with the existing requirements, and also be attractive to the market. I am advised by the best authorities that an issue of Serial Debentures would best fulfill these requirements—the Debentures to be shorter termed and at a higher rate of Interest than those which are now hypothecated.

I will therefore now give notice that at the next Meeting of this Council I will introduce a By-law for the purpose of repealing the By-laws authorising the unsold issues, and to make a new issue of \$1,000,000—20 year—6 per cent Serial Debentures.

(Signed) P. W. FAUVEL,
Chairman of Finance.

CANADA'S GREATEST ASSET.

Canada's greatest wealth lies at her feet, her economic future is bound up in the development of vast agricultural areas of unsurpassed fertility. The rate at which that development can be accelerated is dependent upon the rate of increase in our farming population. In natural sequence immigration can best be attracted to the Dominion by reducing and keeping down the cost of living. That in my opinion is the key to the whole economic situation.—Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor.

GOOD TAX COLLECTIONS.

From reports received at the Department of Municipal Affairs for the Province of Saskatchewan, it would appear that the collection of municipal taxes has been generally most satisfactory, and in many cases heavy indebtedness at the banks has been entirely wiped out. This is an excellent feature of the present condition of municipalities.

The city of Bergen, Norway, has undertaken to guarantee the bonds up to 85 per cent of cost, of building corporations erecting workmen's houses.

MUNICIPAL "PUSH AND GO" IN ENGLAND.

For some time past it has been the practice of the municipal authorities, of seaside resorts, spas, and "watering places" to spend money and energy in advertising and pushing the advantages of their respective towns. The Nottingham City Council, however, have made a somewhat new departure by passing a resolution to appoint, at a salary of not exceeding £250, an officer whose duty it shall be to develop the industrial resources of this already progressive commercial city. These duties apparently will be to organise a systematic effort to secure the establishment of new commercial enterprises in Nottingham, pointing out the advantages that it offers to such enterprise, to collect data as to new industries in all parts of the country by consulting trade newspapers, so that as occasion arises the advantages of Nottingham may be placed in the proper quarter, and generally to push the claims of Nottingham as a good and convenient business centre.

We believe that other towns in the country have made similar efforts, but with what success, or whether they have been on the same lines as those of Nottingham, we do not know. There can be no doubt that in this age of stress and competition it is no use "sitting down" and expecting business to come in, and if Nottingham is able to secure the right man it should be the means of making the city grow commercially even more rapidly than it has done in the past—if that were possible. There is a well-known American adage which says: "Early to bed and early to rise is not a blank bit of use unless you advertise," and there is a considerable amount of truth in these words. The only question for the Corporation of Nottingham to consider is whether they will get a real man of "push and go" for the modest salary of £250 a year. There may be, of course, a large number of real "live" men who would be capable of conducting such an undertaking in the ordinary way, but will Nottingham be able to secure another "Calisthenes" of Selfridge fame for the money?—Surveyer.

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RENFREW, ONT.

\$14,374 6 per cent, to Messrs. C. H. Burgess and Company, Toronto.

SCARBOROUGH TOWNSHIP, ONT.

\$50,000 5½ per cent to Dominion Securities Corporation, Toronto.

DUNCAN, B.C.

Local investors recently purchased \$3,100 6 per cent 10-year debentures.

FORT WILLIAM, ONT.

To Wood, Gundy and Co., Toronto, \$505,000 5 per cent 1922-1945 bonds.

PEACE RIVER CROSSING, ALTA.

To C. H. Burgess & Co., Toronto, \$7,500 7 per cent 10-10-year debentures.

MUNDARE, S.D., ALTA.

To W. L. McKinnon & Co., Toronto, \$5,500 7 per cent, 15-year debentures at 100.09.

PALMERSTON, ONT.

Bond Sale.—The \$12,000 6 per cent 20-instalment hydro-electric bonds have been purchased by R. C. Matthews & Co., of Toronto.

RENFREW, ONT.

Bonds Awarded.—\$14,374 6 per cent. bonds to C. H. Burgess & Co., Toronto.

SCARBOROUGH TOWNSHIP, ONT.

Bonds Awarded.—\$50,000 5½ per cent, to Dominion Securities Corporation, Toronto.

STRATFORD, ONT.

\$200,000 5 per cent 15 and 30-years, to Canada Bond Corporation, Toronto.

VERNON, B.C.

\$38,000 6 per cent, 1935, to Messrs C. H. Burgess and Company, Toronto.

CHATSWORTH, ONT.

\$4,000 6 per cent, 1935, to Messrs. W. L. McKinnon and Company, Toronto.

THAMESVILLE, ONT.

\$6,250 6 per cent, 1945 to Messrs. W. L. McKinnon and Company, Toronto.

GRIMSBY, ONT.

Bond Sale.—C. H. Burgess & Co. of Toronto, purchased an issue of \$3,500 6 per cent 20-instalment bonds.

SOUTHAMPTON, ONT.

Bond Sale—An issue of \$3,100 6 per cent 20-instalment bonds was awarded to C. H. Burgess & Co., of Toronto, at 98.29.

DEBENTURES REPORTED SOLD

by the Saskatchewan Local Government Board between Nov. 15th and 26th totalled as follows: School Districts, \$12,500 and Rural Telephone Co.'s, \$20,000.

GREATER WINNIPEG WATER DISTRICT BONDS SOLD

The Greater Winnipeg Water District Board has accepted an offer from Wood, Gundy and Co., Dominion and Securities Corp. of Toronto, to purchase a million dollars of the district water bonds. These bonds carry interest of five per cent and are repayable in four and a half years. The price paid was 95.16.

REGINA, SASK.

To Wood, Gundy & Co., Toronto, \$275,184.43 local improvement and waterworks debentures in lots as follows: \$8,083.41, 5 per cent, 15-year; \$34,700.38, 5 per cent, 20 year and \$232,400.64, 5 per cent, 30-year.

\$130,000 ISSUE.

On Jan. 17th, The Pas, Man., will make an issue of \$130,000 as follows: For \$80,000 sewer and waterworks construction and \$50,000 for construction and equipment of electric light system, 5 per cent 20-year debentures. H. H. Elliott, Town Clerk.

Mr. H. A. Somerville, of Messrs. W. L. McKinnon and Company, Toronto, has obtained a provisional lieutenantancy in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

HAMILTON'S SHARE \$400,000.

At the annual meeting of the Hamilton branch of the Canadian Patriotic Fund it was announced that Canada must raise nine million dollars this year and that Hamilton's share was \$400,000.

SOUTH VANCOUVER, B.C.

Municipal Treasurer Springford, of South Vancouver, in a statement, shows the estimated liabilities to be met out of current revenue to the end of 1915 total \$209,870, of which \$114,212 is for sinking fund interest on various debentures, treasury certificates and bank loans. The estimated taxes uncollected on October 1 were \$614,988, and the estimated collections to end of year \$56,000, making with cash on hand \$82,080. On December 31 last the arrears of taxes were \$560,501 and the 1915 tax levy \$712,170, making a total of \$1,272,671 taxes due during the year. The receipts to October 12 were \$469,603 and from the tax sale July 19 to August 4, \$34,778 less approximate interest \$5,000. Properties reverting to the municipality at the tax sale totalled \$158,301 arrears, making total collections in cash and land \$657,683 and estimated taxes uncollected \$614,988.

War Conditions.

After the war, a readjustment of trade conditions is to be expected. The flood of wealth which has attended the export of munitions and war supplies must of necessity be largely curtailed, and a new set of problems will have to be faced. As I have said on former occasions when I have had the pleasure of addressing you, if economy be exercised to meet the increased burden of taxation, of which we must bear our share, and the production of exportable articles increased to the utmost extent, to protect our gold supply and minimize our borrowings, and if we keep strong in working capital, then no matter what difficulties the future may have in store for us, we can look forward to them with a degree of complacency. Our agricultural resources and undeveloped wealth will enable us to bear the strain which may be imposed upon us, and we shall in the end come safely through the period of economic upheaval and world-wide conflict—with a larger debt, it is true, but with our ability to meet it unquestioned, and our economic position not seriously impaired.—President Bank of Montreal.

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Reserve Fund	16,000,000.00
Undivided Profits.....	1,293,952.00
Total Assets.....	302,980,554.00

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Rest	-	\$4,750,000
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Capital Paid Up.....	11,560,000
Reserve and Undivided Profits.....	13,174,000
Total Assets.....	185,000,000

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VANCOUVER'S TAXATION EXPERIENCE.

Much ado has been made in certain quarters over the fact that the city of Vancouver has had a little backset in its phenomenal development. The truth of the matter is that Vancouver has passed through an era of speculation, common to all rapidly growing cities, and must now readjust its affairs to a growth along more normal lines. The fact that this British Columbia city approached the Single-tax system to the extent of exempting personal property and improvements from local taxes had nothing to do with the present slump, except that in stimulating prosperity it intensified and quickened the speculative fever. The result that has come about was long ago predicted, and the citizens of Vancouver were urged to guard against it, not by stopping the city's commercial growth by returning to the old system of taxing the products of labor, but by raising the tax on land values to a point that would forestall speculation. The people of Vancouver, however, were not ready to go that far in the tax experiment, and so they have had to pay the penalty.

Two important points are conspicuous in the present situation. One, according to the statement of Louis D. Taylor, Mayor of Vancouver, in the Ground Hog, is:

This enormous addition to office buildings, apartment houses and residences brought about a corresponding reduction in rents of about fifty per cent, and proved this contention—that holding land out of use in cities increases rentals and real estate values.

The other point is the Mayor's statement regarding the public's estimation of the system of taxation. Mr. Taylor says:

The city of Vancouver, like many individuals, has had to curtail its expenditures in every direction, but notwithstanding this, when the council brought down the estimate for the current year, and struck the tax rate, the resolution to exempt improvements carried for the sixth time without a dissenting vote. This fact should be sufficient to counteract any reports that Vancouver has suffered because of its Singletax method. Every municipality except two in British Columbia exempts improvements; the British Columbia Government does the same, and imposes a wild land tax. The last Legislature passed a measure which comes into effect within five years, to raise all revenues of the province from land and natural resources, and retains only one other tax, that on incomes, which are exempt up to \$1,500.

The advocates of taxes on industry—with the exemption of monopoly and privilege—will have to look elsewhere than to Vancouver for evidence to bolster up their parasitical system.—Stoughton Coohy, in "The Public."

MANUFACTURE OF WAR MATERIALS TRANSIENT.

In the manufacture of munitions, clothing and other requisites, we are doing our full share. This has brought profitable employment to Canada when sorely needed, and at the same time rendered great service to the common cause. Let us, however, remember that the manufacture of war materials is a grim and transient form of so-called prosperity, that the cost thereof comes out of the national exchequer of Great Britain or of Canada and from the blood of the flower of our manhood.—Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor.

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SNOW REMOVAL.

A discussion of the methods to be adopted in dealing with a fall of snow cannot yet be considered as unreasonable, and so we venture to direct the attention of our readers to the conclusions of a special committee which was appointed to submit a report on the subject at a recent conference of street-cleaning officials at Philadelphia. These conclusions are seven in number, and may be stated quite shortly. First of all, the plan of organization and the system to be employed should be worked out in advance of the snow season. Next, the work of removal should commence as soon as the snow has covered the pavements, and the indications pointing to the storm continuing, the operations should be carried on continuously. Further, it is recommended that the carrying capacity of the sewer system should be utilised as far as possible to get the snow away from the streets. This at once reduces both the handling and haulage of the material. As regards the class of labor to be employed, the committee state that, when practicable, where there is only a small area to be cleaned, the work should be performed directly by the local authority by day labor. This method is at once flexible and capable of easy administration, and it avoids the necessity for the checking and measurement which are required in the event of the employment of contractors. The committee also call attention to the desirability of co-operation with haulage contractors and the police force, and of securing, as far as possible, the assistance of householders. These general principles, having been determined by a committee of experts, are worthy of the careful consideration of those responsible for the work of snow removal in this country. —"Surveyor."

Engineers—And what they are doing

HYDRO-ELECTRIC.

Owen Sound, Ont., is now connected with the Falls power plant of the Hydro Electric system.

WELLAND.

Building permits for month of Nov. this year	\$ 32,464.00
Building permits for month of Nov. last year	7,488.00
Total for year to end of above month is	171,597.60
Total for corresponding period last year	335,668.00

SASKATCHEWAN RURAL TELEPHONES.

The provincial rural telephone system has developed rapidly during the past year. There were 151 companies organized, and 126 companies incorporated. There were 157 debenture applications received, amounting to \$904,800.00, and 176 debentures issued, totalling \$971,100.00. During the year, also, there were 152 rural and private telephone systems placed in operation, with an increase of 4,783 of mileage. There was an increase of 4,743 rural and private telephones in operation.

A RECORD.

"I believe that the City of Calgary holds a record. The Corporation of Calgary alone has sent 250 men to the front, and these went without receiving any bonus whatever, or any pay, merely the understanding that when they come back, if they are fit, they will receive their positions again. The list includes policemen, firemen, street railway employes and clerks."—Dr. Costello.

THE CHICAGO OF CANADA.

Mayor Waugh of Winnipeg told the St. Andrews Society of Illinois, recently, that he came from "the Chicago of Canada, where the spirit of aggressiveness, restless energy and growth is quite as well defined as it is in the American City."

OLD COUNTRY UNIONS AND CITY GOVERNMENT.

In the wide survey of social and economic affairs made by the members of the trades union congress at Liverpool, it was inevitable that matters of direct or indirect interest to local authorities should have been discussed. That of widest importance was the question of the organization of municipal employes. The terms of the resolution on this subject were: "That any method of organization which seeks to divide workmen employed by public authorities or private employers from their fellows in the same occupations employed by private firms is detrimental to the best interests of trade unionism, and that the parliamentary committee use its best endeavors to prevent the spread of such methods of organization." The mover of the resolution instanced the case of the Municipal employes' union, which, he pointed out, had induced workmen to join its ranks from other organizations. It would be dangerous, he contended, to endorse that principle. A representative of the Municipal employes' association, South London, moved as an amendment to the resolution to delete all the words after "detrimental to the" and substitute "financial interests of the amalgamated association of tramway and vehicle workers, the national amalgamated union of labour, and the gas workers' and general laborers' union, by the unskilled workmen of municipal bodies having a union of their own, the same as the postal and government workers, the railway servants, the miners, the builders' labourers, the cotton operatives and others." He said that when, 16 years ago, he entered the municipal service, he found that the men employed by the local authorities were not organized. He did his best to get men inside the ranks of that organization, and with a fair amount of success. On a vote by card the amendment was lost by an overwhelming majority, and the original resolution was then put and carried.—National Municipal Review.

200 MILES OF PAVED STREETS.

The city of Montreal has now 200 miles of paved streets, of which 40 miles have been laid this year. This constitutes the largest mileage of any single year yet recorded in the history of the city. Last year some 36 miles of new paving were laid. In 1910 Montreal had only 70 miles of paved streets.

TRINIDAD ASPHALT.

Trinidad has been more widely advertised by its exports of asphalt than by all the sugar, cacao, coconuts and coffee ever produced in the island. Trinidad asphalt is known in all the cities of the world as a fine paving material and the Pitch Lake, La Brea, is one of the world's wonders. It covers 104 acres, and is estimated to contain about 9,000,000 tons of asphalt, over 1,500,000 tons having already been taken out. Epure is asphalt from which all the water of which it contains about 25 per cent, has been eliminated by heat. Small quantities of manjak are also mined in Trinidad. This is a black, solid, friable bitumen.—Watson Griffin.

AMERICAN ROAD BUILDERS CONVENTION.

The date for holding the next or Thirteenth Annual Convention of the American Road Builders' Association in Pittsburg has been changed from the week of February 22 to the week of February 28, 1916, the closing day being March 3.

This meeting, which will be the only one of the American Road Builders' Association in 1916, will be the Thirteenth Annual Convention of the Association. It will also be the Sixth American Good Roads Congress to be held under its auspices, and will include also the Seventh National Good Roads Show of Machinery and Materials. This Show or Exhibition will be held in Mechanical Hall, while the sessions of the Congress will be held adjoining. The Congress will commence on Monday evening, February, 28, with the formal opening of the Show, and will end on Friday, March 3, the technical sessions commencing on Tuesday morning, February 29, and continuing on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

THE LATE MR. CONNER.

William Andrew Conner of Plainfield, N.J., died suddenly Monday, December 6, at his office in Perth, Amboy, N.J. He was born in Baltimore, September 12, 1859. He began his business career in 1876, in Pittsburgh, in the oil refining business in which he reached the position of assistant manager for the Standard Oil Co. In 1885 he took charge of the first plant built by the Standard Underground Cable Co. in Pittsburgh, and from then to the time of his death he was the head of the manufacturing business of that company, including large plants planned and built by him in Pittsburgh, Pa., Perth Amboy, N.J., Oakland, Cal., and Hamilton, Canada. He was a director for 10 years, and first vice-president since 1909. He was vice-president of the Perth Amboy Trust Co., in whose inception he had an active part. He was a cousin of Mr. Orville T. Waring, of the Standard Oil Co., Mr. E. J. Waring, of the Standard Underground Cable Co., and of the late Richard S. Waring, founder of the Standard Underground Cable Co., and the inventor of the "Waring" cables. He was also a vice-president and director of the Standard Underground Cable Co. of Canada, Limited, whose factories were planned and built by him in Hamilton, Ont., in 1911-12. He was a 32nd deg. Scottish Rite Mason, and a Knight Templar; a member of the Duquesne Club of Pittsburgh, The Hamilton Club, of Hamilton, Canada, and the Plainfield Country Club. Mr. Conner moved from Pittsburgh to Plainfield in 1904, since when he resided at the latter place. He leaves his widow, who was Miss Tupper, of Michigan; a brother, Edward Conner, of Orange, N.J., and a sister, Mrs. Roak, of Brooklyn, N.Y. Funeral services were held at 3 o'clock, Thursday afternoon, December 9, at his late residence, 999 Hillside Ave., Plainfield, N.J., by his Pastor, Dr. Phillip B. Strong, of the First Baptist Church of Plainfield, and by his former Pittsburgh Pastor, Rev. Dr. Lemuel C. Barnes, of New York, now Secretary of the Board of Home Missions of the Baptist Church. This service was attended by the officers and many of the leading employes of the Standard Underground Cable Co., and by numerous business acquaintances, thus testifying to the love and esteem in which he was held by all who knew him, for his sterling qualities as a man and friend.

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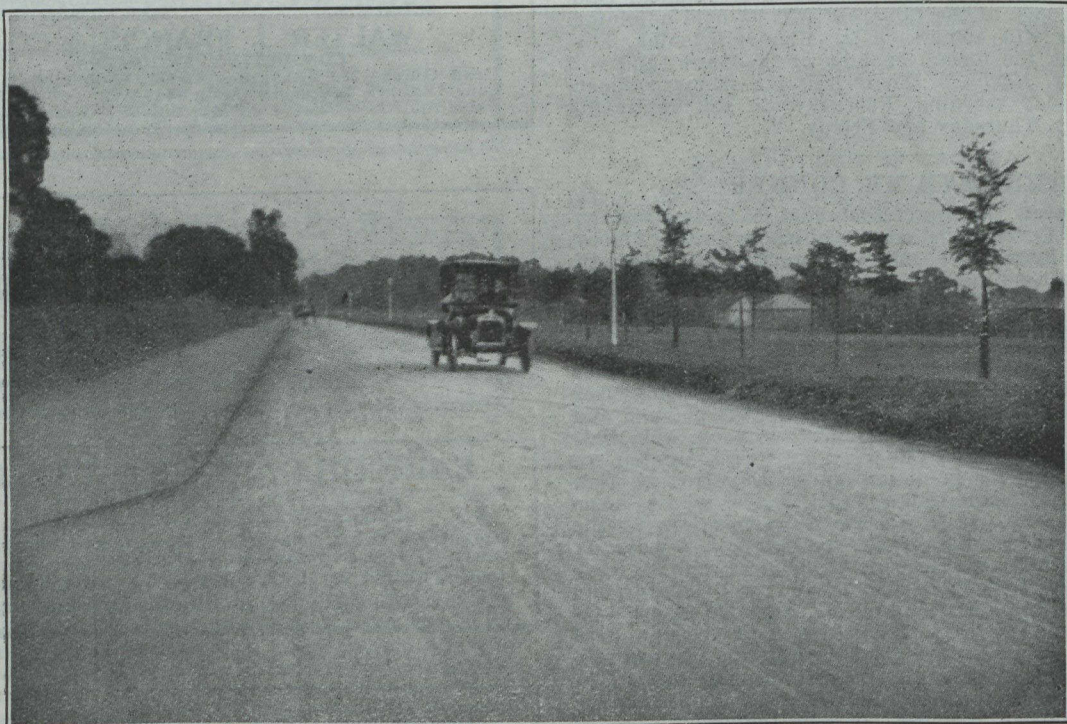
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