

## ADMINISTRATION.

Civic Improvement League of Canada was recently organized. The Town-planning Branch has been of further service to many towns and cities in furnishing advice and assistance respecting proposed schemes for adequate control and guidance of future development. The branch also undertakes research work on problems relating to municipal government in general, and has been engaged in advocating the establishment of departments of municipal affairs in all provinces, with a view to securing a more uniform system and a higher standard of local government throughout Canada.

**Publicity.**—To acquaint the public with the objects and results of its endeavours, and to foster a widespread sentiment in support of proper administration of the national domain, the Commission has, through the Committee on Press and Co-operating Associations, issued numerous reports and bulletins. Frequent use has been made also of the public platform and valuable support and assistance received from the Press. Having become identified in public opinion with the promotion of national efficiency, the Commission is constantly in receipt of requests for assistance in eliminating all forms of waste and inefficiency. As the result of a very widespread appeal from public bodies throughout Canada, it recently undertook an exhaustive inquiry into the causes and means of reducing Canada's enormous annual fire loss,—a serious waste which imposes a heavy tax on industry and severe drain on our natural resources.

The success which has rewarded the Commission's efforts since its inception must be attributed largely to its non-executive character. Wisely limited to advisory functions, but practically unrestricted in its scope of inquiry with respect to efficient utilization of Canada's natural resources, the Commission of Conservation has proved admirably adapted to achieve the purpose for which it was designed.

## PUBLIC LANDS.

**Dominion Lands.**—The Crown lands of the Dominion of Canada are situated in the Northwest provinces and in the Railway Belt of British Columbia. Of these lands large areas are offered in free grants as homesteads for settlers<sup>1</sup>. The lands are laid out in townships of 36 sections. Each section contains 640 acres and is divided into quarter sections of 160 acres. A quarter section of 160 acres may be obtained by a settler on payment of an entry fee of \$10 and fulfilment of certain conditions of residence and cultivation. To qualify for the issue of the patent for his homestead a settler must have resided upon his homestead for at least six months in each of three years, must have erected a habitable house thereon, must have at least 30 acres of his holding broken of which 20 acres must be cropped, and must be a British subject.

**Disposal of Dominion Lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.**—According to figures supplied by the Department of the

<sup>1</sup>Copies of the detailed Regulations for the granting of free homesteads are obtainable from the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Department of the Interior, Ottawa.