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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD IN SASKATCHEWAN.

The Third Legislature of Saskatchewan, recently concluded, passed an act to provide for the creation of a Local Government Board, to consist of three members and to exercise broad control over the financial affairs of the municipalities of the province.

Associated with the commissioners for advisory purposes will be two members, appointed annually, one by the organization representing urban municipalities, and the other representing the organization of rural municipalities. The commissioners are not allowed to hold any interest in the securities of Saskatchewan local authorities, or to be members of any company dealing in their securities, nor may they be interested in any work done or contracts let by these authorities. They are also disfranchised both as to municipal and provincial elections.

The term "local authorities" is defined under the Act to mean the council of a city, town, village or rural municipality, the board of trustees of a school district, and the directors of rural telephone companies.

The duties of the board may be briefly summarized as follows: It will have power to inquire into the merits of an application from any of these authorities for permission to raise money by way of debentures or upon security of stock; it may grant or refuse such permission; it may manage sinking funds entrusted to its care; it may supervise the expenditure of money by local authorities; it may demand a detailed statement of the financial standing of local authorities.

All local authorities, excepting cities and towns, desiring to raise money by way of loan, must first make application to the board. Cities and towns must do so prior to the first reading of the money by-law. None of the terms of the existing law as affecting villages and rural municipalities are altered in any way, except that the powers formerly vested in the Minister of Municipal Affairs will in future be vested in the Local Government Board. The same conditions will apply to school districts and rural telephone companies.

The board is given power to investigate the advisability or otherwise of authorizing a loan, and when money is to be borrowed for waterworks or sewerage systems the approval of the Commissioner of Public Health must first be procured, as is provided in the Public Health Act.

The board will have the right to enter upon and inspect any works, require the attendance of any persons whom it sees fit to summon and the production of all desired documents or plans, and in forcing the attendance of witnesses will have the same powers as the Supreme Court.

NO TIME TO TENDER.

Hardly a week elapses but that there is announced some important call for tenders which allows bidders only a week or two for the preparation of their tenders.

"No time to tender" has become a very familiar phrase among Canadian engineering, contracting and manufacturing concerns. Important firms are frequently barred from tendering, simply because of the time element. There are rare occasions when a town or city really requires material or machinery in a hurry. But nine times out of ten, the time allowed bidders could probably be increased by a fortnight, or even a month, without any detriment to the municipality—especially if a little foresight were used and tenders called for promptly