

blown to the winds. The key of so much progress lies evidently in the fact that, like the other provincial Unions, they have wisely cultivated friendly relations with the Legislature, as appears by its printing their proceedings, and accepting their suggestions.

The Union of New Brunswick Municipalities was founded on the 12th of February, 1907, at St. John, by a progressive group headed by the then Mayor, Edward Sears, of St. John. The others were names well-known in municipal life, J. S. Magee, City Clerk of Moncton, the late Mayor Teed, of St. Stephen, Dr. McNally, Mayor of Fredericton, and last but not least, Mr. J. W. McCready, City Clerk of Fredericton, one of the most valued members of the Parent Union, and who last year was its honored President. For four years he has been the guiding hand of the New Brunswick Union, and has spent much of his valuable time and effort not only in keeping its affairs in order but in personally protecting the municipalities from dangerous legislation. This Union has, like its sisters, wisely sought and won the sympathy of the Legislature and of the Government, and has from the first been a recognized factor in all legislation in any way affecting municipal affairs. It has prevented encroachments on streets and civic franchises; has pushed persistently for good highways, interprovincial trunk roads, improvements in the public health laws, a complete public health department and various other reforms. It has obtained improved municipal statutes, and a Town Planning Act, and I understand will ask the Government for a Provincial Municipal Department. It has also disseminated life, progress and information into the administration of the municipalities of the Province, and has caused them to adopt and speak of with pride, such special achievements as the up-to-date improvements of the City of Moncton, and the Commission Government of St. John,—both of which are regarded with interest far beyond the limits of New Brunswick.

I hear that some of your best workers are feeling discouraged. Let me say that this must be because you are merely tired with so much good work. If you count up your achievements fully, and value them properly, you will feel proud and refreshed instead of discouraged, and new successes are sure to come to you.

In its first year, this Union obtained an amendment (valuable for the future) to the New Brunswick Telephone Company Act, and memorialized the Legislature to go further and take over the telephone service. Perhaps, in view of the success of provincial government telephone systems in the three Western Provinces this progressive policy may yet be carried out.

This Union also lent help to Moncton's Street Railway project; procured the Public Utilities' Commission; gave form and strength to protection of all streets throughout the Province from corporate encroachments; advised the Government,—at its request—on the Highway Act, the Public Health Act, and larger powers for municipalities, discussed fully the land tax, exemptions and every up-to-date live municipal question. I might refer as a model, to Mr. Reilly's thoughtful papers on "Provincial Industrial Development" and "Forms, Issue and Cancellation of Municipal Bonds"; to the late Dr. A. W. McRea's on "Government Ownership of Telephones", and to several others of outstanding strength in the records of the Union.

Here I may say that the parent Union keeps complete reports of the provincial conventions, and will be glad

to furnish lists of subjects and other information, to other provincial Unions desiring them.

In examining the foregoing records,—cursorily sketched—of the work that is being done by the eight provincial Unions, it is seen that all are working along the same lines because they fill a special sphere, that of the Province; and the importance of that sphere can be appreciated in recalling the simple fact that ordinary municipal legislation is provincial. They ought therefore all to keep track of each other's work. In their hands, if they choose to vigorously press it, lies the power of practically dictating the whole state of the municipal law proper. As a matter of fact they are largely constructing these law systems. If they earnestly study the means of municipal improvement and advance, they must be listened to as the natural authorities. As a matter of fact they are vigorously leading all actual municipal improvement and advance. If they unitedly oppose encroachments on public rights and franchises, they will be the most formidable foes of such encroachments. As a matter of fact they are so fighting unitedly, and succeeding too. One of the special lines of their advance is the obtaining of properly organized expert Departments of Municipalities in each Province. Another is a government telephone system in each Province. You have not yet taken up these two subjects, but your activities have produced from the Legislature of Nova Scotia a system of public control and facilities for small telephone exchanges, which is almost a government ownership system. Another natural line of advance, which ought perhaps to come first, Finance, Statistics, Public Health, are all in their rightful line. But perhaps the most important item in the rightful programme of action for the provincial Unions, is loyal support to the whole Union of Canadian Municipalities, of which they are parts, in their efforts to constantly protect them all against their larger foes, and to introduce general improvements, and keep going the broad current of united life and expert information. It is the link between them all, and the representation of them all. We are one family.

Now think of the meaning of any of these subjects. Each one I venture to say is worth many lives of public service. Is it nothing that good laws exist, that fire and disease and moral disorder be kept down in our communities, that sewerage systems be perfected, taxation be fair, isolation of the farm be abolished? Is it nothing that purloiners of our rights be not permitted to laugh at us and at justice, nor to set up bad examples in the triumph of fraud in our land? Does it mean nothing that in the stress of protest against federal legislation, we can point to practically all the live municipalities of Canada as supporters of our demands?

These are some of the issues which depend on the faithful work of the provincial Union. And I say that they mean much. Let us all take heart then and go forward. We are fighting and laboring in a glorious cause,—and, thank God, in a very successful cause.

The whole work of the Union of Canadian Municipalities is your work,—the work of each one of the indefatigable servants of the people who conduct these invaluable provincial Unions. You stand for honesty and right, and liberty, for complete public order, for better health, for decent and beautiful communities, for the welfare of the young as well as the adult. You are building institutions for the future which shall make the lives of those to come most desirable. You may be proud of your share in this making of a nation, and you will find a real reward in public service for itself.