

fund has been received or not, and no really good excuse can be found for allowing the sinking fund to get in arrears. For it is well nigh impossible to return it to its integrity without another issue of debentures. Where a small town has many Local Improvement Debentures, and where the taxes have not been paid to an extent to enable the municipality to swing away from a deficit, it seems to me to be right and proper to take advantage of the powers conferred by the Municipal Act and borrow the amount of Local Improvement Taxes that are in arrears for the current year, as this liability is not part of the estimates proper. In this western country where improvements are the order of the day, we should be most guarded in our investments of the sinking fund, should it be decided to make any, to look well to where and how many monies belonging to the sinking fund are placed, and before putting it in any other security than that represented by the Savings Bank department of a chartered bank, we should consult the pages of the Municipal Act and not force the debenture-holders to put all their eggs in one basket as is the case when cities buy their own debentures with the sinking fund.

Another matter is bank overdrafts. This is the ruin of many a good city and good council and is a practice that should be discouraged by the bank. Councils come to the end of the year with an overdraft and no visible means of providing for same, and we find this overdraft turned over to the in-coming council, probably all new men, to wrestle with and provide for. Make your estimate for work and improvements large enough to cover the work amply, then provide the money and go on with your work. The trouble most cities have is the under estimation of work by men they employ to give them figures.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. McKinnon and the paper ordered to be placed on the minutes.

Resolution Committee further report:

1911 Report

2. Industrial Homes-Recommend that this matter be dropped for the present. Adopted.

Re Hospitals-Recommend for further presentation of this clause. Adopted.

3. "That the Executive take up the question of inter-municipal roads and bridges with the Minister of Public Works with a view to establishing some system of joint control of these roads and bridges so as to secure uniformity of construction and effective maintenance and repair throughout the entire length." Adopted.

Telephones, Already dealt with.

4. "That the hardships occasioned by the working out of last year's amendments on this subject be called by the Executive to the attention of the Municipal Commission with a view to having more workable sections drafted." Adopted.

6. "That the Executive submit to the Commission and urge for a clearer definition of "wild land." Adopted.

7 and 8. Re-submitted to the Government.

10. Already dealt with.

15. Already reported on.

17 and 19. Struck out.

21, 22 and 23. Referred to Executive Committee for further recommendation.

24. Struck out.

29. Referred back to Committee.

31 and 32. Struck out.

33. Moved by Mayor Lee seconded by Mayor Sutherland:

"That in the opinion of this Convention some provision ought to be made to prevent school

boards throughout the Province from expending more money than provided in the Estimates, unless an agreement can be reached between the Council and the Board; and

"That the word 'five' be stricken out and the Council be required to strike a rate when preparing the tax by-law that will meet the requirement of the Board." Carried.

35. Cannot recommend further submission as the Local Improvement Clauses of this Act if passed as this Committee wish will meet the situation.

38. "That the Executive urge on the Government and the Municipal Commission that a model Act be drafted enabling any municipality on a sufficient vote of the people to adopt the best features of what is known as 'The Commission Form of Government.'" Carried on division.

41. To be re-submitted to the Government.

45. To cut down dangerous trees and charge to owner. Adopted.

46. Power to control Cemeteries. Passed.

Wednesday, October 23, 1912.

A paper on "Municipal Problems" by Mayor Sutherland, was withdrawn as the various points had already been discussed.

A paper was read by M. J. Crehan, F.C.A., Vancouver, on

General Municipal Affairs

The existence of municipalities and cities may be traced back to a very remote period. Historical research has also revealed the fact that they enjoyed to a greater or less extent the privileges of local self-government.

Memphis, in Egypt, is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, of the Old World's great capitals.

Travelling along history, municipal corporations and municipal governments were familiar to the Romans.

Ancient Rome, in its essential municipal wants, and its means of acquiring them, bears a close analogy to London, Paris or New York. To secure the comfort and health of the city, and to extinguish fires, Rome provided itself with a magnificent water supply, consisting of 14 aqueducts, the total length of which was 359 $\frac{1}{3}$ miles, 304 of which were underground, through mountains and along valleys, and 55 miles were above ground.

As a sanitary necessity, the city constructed drains to carry off the sewage, and the Cloaca Maxima, an immense sewer, is a large and wonderful work, built 25 centuries ago, on unstable ground, and under enormous practical difficulties, which still answers its purpose well, and ranks amongst the greatest triumphs of engineering skill. In Ancient Rome there were Fire and Police departments; eight commons or green spaces were set apart for sports and athletic exercises, and 18 public squares and 30 parks and gardens for breathing spaces. The only fault in Ancient Rome was that it was deficient in lighting.

But Time works great marvels, and a city of modern times, Berlin, shows this.

Professor Ely said that this is the best governed large municipality in the world.

The form of government of Berlin is given by Mr. Baxter as follows:

"All male persons of the age of 24, who pay a tax on an income of \$150, obtain the electoral franchise upon a year's residence. Over 10,000 citizens take part in the administration of municipal affairs. The most distinguished and substantial citizens