

The Ontario Municipal Association.

The Ontario Municipal Association held its annual meeting in Toronto on the 6th and 7th September. A report of its proceedings recently received shows that there was a good attendance, and that many questions of the greatest interest to municipalities were considered.

The provisions of the new Assessment Act were thoroughly explained by Messrs. Hutton and Forman of the Assessment Departments, Hamilton and Toronto.

The following recommendations contained in the report of Committee on General Resolutions were adopted :

"1. That the councils of municipalities be given power to regulate the salaries of police magistrates, unless the body that appoints the magistrate pays the salary.

"2. That section 481, sub-section 1, be amended so as to provide for the annual appointment by the municipal council, at their first meeting, of two persons (resident ratepayers) on the Board of Commissioners of Police in addition to the Mayor, the Judge of the County Court and the Police Magistrate.

"3. That the proviso to sub-section 1 of section 569 of The Municipal Act, respecting the operation of street railways by municipalities, should be repealed and the following substituted therefor :

"Provided that the powers conferred by this sub-section shall only be exercised by a municipality when the exercise of such powers would not be a violation of the provisions of any agreement or contract between the municipality and any existing Street Railway Company.

"4. That municipal councils should be given power to construct underground conduits and to erect poles and compel all electrical companies to use such conduits or poles and pay a reasonable rental therefor.

"5. That all expenses of registration and elections for the Ontario Legislature be borne by the Province, and that this Association present a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council in accordance therewith.

"6. That the Ontario Legislature be petitioned to provide that where an indigent person is committed to a County House of Refuge who has not resided continuously for one year in the municipality from which he is committed, and who has been residing in the county previous to his commitment, or whose place of previous residence is unknown, the cost of maintaining such indigent person be provided entirely by the county, and not be charged to the municipality committing.

"7. In view of the fact that the statutes, including The Municipal Act, will be consolidated in 1907, the Association urges upon the Government the appointing of municipal officers who are familiar with the working of The Municipal Act, to act as revisers with the other revisers in respect to that part of the consolidation relating to municipal matters ; and that a committee of this Association attend before the Government during the next session to urge the adoption of the above.

"8. That power be given to municipalities to buy or if necessary to expropriate on equitable terms, any existing gas lighting or water plant.

"9. That the constitution of this Association be amended so as to extend the right of representatives therein to villages, towns, cities and counties as well as to cities and towns.

"11. That a committee composed of the Mayors of Ottawa, Windsor, Toronto, St. Thomas, Aylmer and Guelph, be appointed to examine into the question of the

interest rate of municipal debentures, and report at the next annual meeting of this Association.

"12. That the Executive Committee consider and submit to the next annual meeting a constitution for this Association.

"13. That sub-section 4 of section 5 of The New Assessment Act be amended by adding the words following, 'but not when occupied by any person as tenant or lessee.'

"14. That sub-section 9 of section 5 of The New Assessment Act be amended by adding the words following, 'but not when such real property is occupied by any person as tenant or lessee.'

"15. That the Dominion Government be urged by petition or otherwise to pass such legislation as will enable them to take over the long distance telephone business of Canada and to operate the same."

The Committee on Municipal Fire Insurance reported in favor of a scheme to organize a Dominion Municipal Insurance Corporation, to be incorporated and conducted in the same way as a joint stock company with the municipalities, which become members as its stockholders. They also recommended the adoption of the following resolution :

"That in cities and towns Fire Insurance Companies be required to file annually, on the first day of June, with the clerk of the municipality, a sworn statement showing their gross receipts and losses in such municipality for the preceding year, to enable the municipality to determine whether the rates are equitable or otherwise."

This will be strongly urged at the ensuing session of the Ontario Legislature, particularly as it is already the law in several States forming the United States of America.

The following are the officers of the Association for the ensuing year :

President—W. A. Boys, Mayor, Barrie.

1st Vice-President—W. A. Grier, Mayor, Owen Sound.

2nd Vice-President—W. P. Hubbard, Controller, Toronto.

3rd Vice-President—W. W. Chown, Mayor, Belleville.

Secretary—S. H. Kent, Assistant City Clerk, Hamilton.

Executive Committee—The Mayor of Toronto, Mayor of Ottawa, Mayor of Guelph, Mayor of London, Mayor of Brantford, Mayor of Kingston, Mayor of Brockville. F. Mackelcan, City Solicitor, Hamilton ; D. M. McIntyre, City Solicitor, Kingston ; R. P. Slater, ex-Mayor, Niagara Falls ; W. C. Mikel, City Solicitor, Belleville ; Thos. Caswell, City Solicitor, Toronto.

THE TRUST COMPANY IDEA.

If our readers have any doubt about the advisability of appointing a Trust Company as executor or trustee, they should procure a copy of "The Trust Company Idea," by Ernest Heaton, B.A., barrister, of Toronto, price \$1.00, in which the writer traces the development of these financial institutions throughout the world, and points to the necessity for their organization. The Trust Company, he states, offers insurance against losses which sometimes occur owing to the failure of the individual trustee, and that it is as necessary as insurance against fire. The book is timely, and will be recognized as a standard work, which ought to be read by every owner of property.