

Convention of B. C. Municipalities—(Continued).

rears of taxes, to secure payment of such advances, and all monies collected on account of such arrears by the municipality, shall within thirty days from date of collection be paid into the Provincial Treasury.

(4) All municipalities receiving advances from the Provincial Treasurer under the last preceding section shall forthwith, after the expiration of one year after the conclusion of the said war, hold a tax sale to recover said arrears of taxes, and out of the proceeds thereof shall pay to the said Provincial Treasurer all such advances together with interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

All of which is respectfully submitted."

M. McBEATH, Chairman.

Further, that in the opinion of this Convention the War Relief Act should be amended so as to provide that in the case of land being owned by two or more persons, one of whom is entitled to the benefit of the said Act, and the other not, the collector may accept the proportion of taxes due by such other persons, and all remedies for collection of taxes may be enforced against such other persons or their interests in the land.

Report of Auditors.

"We have the honour to report that we have examined the books and vouchers of the Union for the current year, and find them to be in order and have signed the balance sheet accordingly.

We beg to call particular attention to the small amount of expense incurred by your Executive in comparison to the large and important volume of work accomplished by that body during the current year.

We further recommend that every effort continue to be made to induce every municipality in British Columbia to become active members of this Union."

J. W. DICKINSON,

ARTHUR G. MOORE, J.P.

The Resolutions Committee brought in the following:

"That Section 2 of Chapter 242, of the Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1911, being the Deserted Wife Maintenance Act, be amended to read as follows:—

2. For the purpose of this Act—

A wife shall be deemed to be deserted by her husband,

(a) Because of his assaults or other acts of cruelty.

(b) Because of his refusal or neglect without sufficient cause to supply his wife and their infant children (if any) with food, clothing, or other necessities:

"Magistrate" means a Stipendiary Magistrate, Police Magistrate, or any two Justices of the Peace, having jurisdiction in the locality in which a deserted wife resides, or where a deserted wife has been deserted. Carried.

Report from Committee on Hospitals.

Moved, that in the matter of the Hospital Act, your committee would recommend that no amendment be offered from this Convention, but would recommend that the incoming executive give the matter earnest consideration, and endeavor to find solutions for such problems as may existed at the time of our next Convention.—Carried.

MAYOR McBEATH, Chairman.

Amendment was suggested as follows:

(a) That no hospital shall receive a patient from any other municipality than that in which it is situate, when such other municipality is already supporting or operating a hospital, and has notified the hospital to that effect.

(b) That every municipality have power by by-law to determine the hospital to which patients from that municipality requiring hospital accommodation shall be sent.

(c) Exceptions to be made for cases of accidents occurring outside the boundaries of the municipality interested.

(4) Claim of Government to a reversion of one-fourth of the lots upon subdivision of certain lands.

In the form of Crown Grant issued under the Land Act of 1896 the following proviso was contained: "Provided also that in the event of any of the lands hereby granted being divided into town lots one-fourth of all the blocks of lots, containing not less than one-fourth in number and area of such lots, shall be reconveyed to us, our heirs and successors. This provision was continued in all grants of land from the Crown until 1910, and large tracts of land in this and other municipalities were Crown-granted during this period.

No definition was ever given of the expression "town lots."

Resolved, that the incoming Premier and Executive Council of the Province be asked in consideration of the fact that the Canadian Northern Pacific, and Pacific Great Eastern and all other railways having agreements with the Government, and not having lived up to the obligations contracted to be done by them under their various agreements with the Province, that, if any application be made for an extension of time on their behalf or a renewal of their charters, or either of them, or if any other matter is suggested whereby such a measure may become possible, or for any grant, concession, subsidy or other indulgence, that as a partial consideration for the concession asked for, the railway company be compelled to forego any claim for exemption from taxation, lands which are not actually used in the construction or operation of the railway.—Carried.

An invitation was received and accepted from the City of Duncan that the Convention assemble there next year.

An invitation was received from the City of Penticton that the Convention meet there in 1918.

Nomination for President, 1917.

Moved by Reeve Bridgman, seconded by Ald. Fletcher, that Mayor Smith, of Vernon, be elected President. —Carried.

Nomination for Vice-President.

Moved by Reeve McGregor, seconded by Ald. Gale, that Reeve Bridgman be elected Vice-President.—Carried.

Nomination for Secretary Treasurer.

Moved by Councillor Loutet, seconded by Ald. Grant, that Sec.-Treas. H. Bose stand again for the office. —Carried.

Moved by Ald. Wright, North Vancouver, seconded by Reeve Fraser, that Solicitor F. F. McDiarmid stand again for the office of solicitor to the convention.—Carried.

The following were elected as the Executive for the following year: Reeve Fraser, Mayor Gray, Mayor Smithe, Mayor McBeath, Reeve Sullivan, Reeve McGregor, Mayor Barber.—Carried.

Resolved, that the honorarium fees to the secretary-treasurer for 1917 be the same as for 1916 with expenses:—\$500 and expenses to the solicitor, Mr. McDiarmid, and \$300 and expenses to the sec.-treas., Mr. H. Bose.

It is only fair to state there that the honorarium awarded to the solicitor is but small compensation for the valuable service which he has rendered the Union of B. C. Municipalities.—Carried.

Moved by J. J. Johnston, New Westminster, that the thanks of this Convention are due to the City of Vernon for the courtesies they have extended to us.—Carried.

Mayor Smith replied that the City of Vernon felt amply repaid and would always consider it a great pleasure to see that the delegates to the Convention would have no reason whatever to regret their visit to the city.

Moved by Reeve McGregor, seconded by Ald. Wright, that a hearty vote of thanks be extended to Mr. W. D. Lighthall, K.C., hon. sec.-treas. of the Canadian Union, for services in connection with the Western Canada Telephone Bill.—Carried.

Moved by Ald. Gale, seconded by Ald. Fletcher, that the success of this Convention is due to the untiring efforts that Mr. Bridgman has put forth, and that a vote of thanks be tendered to him for the good work he has accomplished.—Carried.

Moved by Ald. Gale, seconded by Ald. Caldecott, that the thanks of the Convention are due to the retiring Executive.—Carried.

Moved by Ald. Johnston, seconded by Reeve Fraser, that a vote of thanks be tendered Municipal Inspector Baird, who has so willingly given the Union such great assistance.—Carried.

Moved by Reeve Bridgman, seconded by Mayor McBeath, that a very hearty vote of thanks be given to Miss Binnington, stenographer, for her services.—Carried.

Mayor Smith suggested the ex-President Stewart act as representative of the Union of B. C. Municipalities at the Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities to be held at Victoria next year.—Carried.

Mr. F. F. McDiarmid, solicitor, suggested that a committee be appointed to go into details and data with regard to B. C. Telephone Company (now the Western Canada Telephone Co.).—Carried.

GOD SAVE THE KING.