

N. B. UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES

(Continued from page 1.)

The last convention was held in St. Stephen in 1916, when I was honored with the presidency, which selection, I regret to state, was not productive of such results as you no doubt anticipated. War and resultant conditions did not appear to warrant a continuance of meetings, and therefore it is, that the present time has been deemed opportune to convene again, as the guests of the Municipality of the City and County of Saint John.

Such conditions as I have referred to not only prevented meetings, but discussions of such legislation as might have been promoted by this union, and while it is regrettable that only a minimum of legislation has been enacted, through your efforts I respectfully submit that one piece of legislation, promoted and made effective, has been most satisfactory in its results.

The legislation I refer to is that which applies to hospital work, and by which any man, woman or child in the Province of New Brunswick may be accorded hospital treatment, by the fact that any hospital in the province may care for a patient and hold the county from which the patient comes, liable in case the patient is unable to pay the cost of same.

Now that you are about to resume your activities and by this convention promote your opinions, that this is a necessary body for promoting the general welfare of the respective municipalities which you represent, it might be proper for me to refer to the necessity for and the possibilities of such a union.

The civic consciousness developed in many communities through the necessary active co-operation of all citizens during the war, should bring a more aggressive spirit to the support of municipal projects.

The pride which was exhibited in the accomplishments of villages, towns and cities during the war, should show itself in an ever-increasing desire to provide more fully for the development of municipal life.

While I do not wish to depreciate any desire to typify the spirit of service of all who lent their efforts during the war, by such expressions as war memorials, in the nature of mere shafts, ornamental tombstones or other inanimate objects, it does seem proper to consider carrying on the work for that bettering of conditions.

Hospitals, schools, libraries, parks, playgrounds and other worthy objects are most essential, but let it be your privilege to look further into the future and plan an even nobler tribute than buildings alone.

Let it be your privilege to look into the heart and soul of your respective municipalities, where the memorial to those who died and those who served may be better expressed not only in lines of beautiful buildings, but in the construction of a community spirit, which will more fully assist in establishing better living conditions, and will be more fully appreciated by those who served in the interest, not only of their respective communities, but in that of the world.

That there is a necessity for such a union, does not admit of contradiction, but there must be established a sincerity of purpose in order that it may reach its objective.

The objective is only to be reached by the co-operation of the New Brunswick Municipalities, in the guidance and improvement of legislation, such as affects them, in its direction of their respective governments.

Such co-operation means frequency of meetings well attended, at which all matters pertaining to the welfare of the different municipalities may be brought for discussion, only after that most important factor, citizenship action has been applied, towards an intelligent solution of the various problems.

The real tests of good citizenship are right thinking, right feeling and right action. These three aims, however, are not separate entities, which are acquired independently of each other. Right feeling and right action are the result of right thinking or intelligent citizenship.

As you are about to resume your work, do not make the fatal mistake of keeping your citizenship ignorant and uninformed, of the services you seek to render, for you will stand or fall just in proportion as the people of your communities feel that this union is what they require for their protection.

Your efforts will be of little avail unless the civic spirit of the citizenship can be aroused to more than a passing interest in public matters. Obstacles are placed in your way because of the apathy existing among the citizens as to the manner in which public matters are disposed of.

The people themselves are to blame for it is their problem and when they wake up and recognize it as such, the first step in its solution will have been taken. Co-operation is the secret of your success, for the whole proposition may be easily wrecked, by lack of harmony or by opposing to selfish or sectional interests. Work together for the good of the Province of New Brunswick and advantage.

There never was a time when the province required you as much as now. The opportunity for doing much good is here and I trust you will avail yourselves of it.

In conclusion permit me to express a fervent wish, that my successor in office with your valuable assistance, may make more progress in achieving the real objective of this union, than I have been privileged to do, and that in the next few years, the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities will have attained its proper position and receive the recognition which should be its proper due.

I thank you gentlemen for your kind indulgence.

Respect of Secretary.

The report of the secretary, J. King Kelly, K. C., was as follows:

On February 12, 1921, on the invitation of Edward Sears, Esq., then Mayor of the City of St. John, a number of the Mayors, Wardens and Councilors of the City and County of Saint John for the purpose of effecting a Union of the Provincial Municipalities.

Among the prominent members of the Union at the organization, in addition to Mayor Sears, Warden Warden

Thomas H. Bullock, J. B. M. Baxter, James Lowry, Mayor, Ted, Warden, Woodcock, Mayor, Nichol of Chatham, Mayor, Ted of Saint Stephen, Mayor, Hennessey, of Newcastle, and Warden, Flett, of Northumberland County, also Senator Wood of Sackville.

A number of the stalwart men of that memorable meeting on February 12, 1921 have gone to their eternal reward.

Among the best beloved and most highly respected for their work as men and for the uplift which they gave their communities, I mention the names of James Lowry, Mayor, Ted, Warden, Flett, and Alderman John McGoldrick.

The City of Saint John owes much to the honest, earnest and unswerving loyalty of the late John McGoldrick. He is kindly remembered and best appreciated by those who knew him well.

John McGoldrick did much for the City of Saint John. His funeral day brought a concourse of all peoples of the municipality together which was not often seen before and certainly not since.

Public Utilities.

The New Brunswick Telephone Company then, as now, a matter of much concern to those who believe the people should have some share in the control of public utilities, and who also believe a public utility should seek to serve the people and contribute to the schemes of

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of the recapitalization of the New Brunswick Power Company would make the Ryans of Chicago blush at the awkwardness and barefacedness of the amateurs in New Brunswick.

The battle for betterment of public health legislation was commenced at the Moncton convention in 1909. Local control of the boards of health was demanded and the following campaign was waged upon the government.

Methods for keeping the street clean, abolition of smoke nuisance, medical inspection of schools, inspection of work-shops and factories, and the guarding of the milk supply.

Health Legislation.

The 1910 convention, like the 1909 convention, was again to the forefront of public health legislation. Mayor Chestnut of Fredericton, in his official opening address to the union, said: "Again, in regard to the establishment of a laboratory for the purpose of making chemical and bacteriological analysis, it seems to me that the provincial government might arrange to have a professor of our university undertake work of this character, thereby enabling any community in the province to get exact information whenever needed at a nominal fee, at least so far as its water and milk supplies are concerned."

The convention adopted the proposition submitted by Mayor Chestnut, and appointed a committee to carry their determinations to the government.

The most notable feature of the convention in St. Stephen, in 1912, was the elaborate paper on public health by Dr. Murray McLaren.

He urged the appointment of a provincial public health officer possessing a diploma in public health, the establishment of a hygienic laboratory, a provincial bacteriologist and a hospital pathologist, the appointment of health officers, the care of tuberculosis on a large scale, medical inspection of public schools.

The health programme advocated by Dr. Murray McLaren was not new. Dr. M. B. Mullin and others had been insisting on medical inspection of the public schools for many years; the tuberculosis problem had also been taken up by the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities, but Dr. Murray McLaren arranged the whole subject of public health into one paper. He was endorsed by the Union and made an honorary member.

The problem of health is now under a departmental head, Hon. Dr. W. P. Robarts being the responsible minister, and to him must be given the credit of carrying into operation what had been the hopes and subjects of resolutions and government interviews for many years previously.

While the present health act has a few objectionable features—such as patronage and powers of taxation without representation, on the whole the act is well worthy the support of the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities. The aspirations will no doubt be removed in time and its promoter be venerated by our children as a man of vision and a benefactor.

At the Moncton convention of 1909, Albert E. Reddy, mayor of Moncton, took strong grounds against leasing the Intercolonial Railway. This was unanimously supported.

If 1909 had been for railway projects of development in New Brunswick, what must we say about 1921 as we view the tragedy of the maritime provinces being erased from the economic map of Canada.

Municipal Accounting.

At the convention held in Campbellton in February of 1910, a system of uniform municipal accounting was urged, as well as independent auditing of all municipal corporations' accounts, including sinking funds. Since then the government of New Brunswick has made provision for inspection of sinking funds, but has not put the act in practical operation.

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The county of York has an independent audit by a chartered accountant, and the municipality of the City and County of St. John has just been audited by a city, town or county by the dominion government in the form of police or military protection in times of strikes.

The late G. W. McCready rectified, with the approval of the U. N. B. M., the conclusions of the Union of Canadian Municipalities on this point, as follows:—"That it was unjust and arbitrary to lay upon the municipalities the liability to maintain and pay the militia engaged in the suppression of disorder, and in lieu of such arbitrary methods, the liability should be fixed by a judge on the municipality, province or federal authorities, according to the nature and conditions of the circumstances."

Provincial Highways.

At the 1910 convention Hon. John Morley made the confession that "there was not a really good road from St. Croix to the Restigouche; in fact they were not better than they were thirty years ago."

We are happy to say today that his successor, whom we have with us, will not be compelled to make such a confession. His confession will be far from that, thanks to the support the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities has given to forward the good roads movement.

It was at Campbellton, in 1910, that the U. N. B. M. declared the policy for public highways. Mayor Montgomery of Dalhousie had the union declare: "That in the opinion of this Union of New Brunswick Municipalities the time is opportune for the provincial government to inaugurate a system of provincial roads between important centres in the province, and if necessary, to borrow money for the purpose of carrying into effect such a system."

The climax of the road question was thought to have been reached, when, in 1916, at Saint Stephen, a bonded expenditure of \$5,000,000 was urged upon the government.

A Detective Bureau.

For several sessions commencing in 1909 the government of New Brunswick was urged to establish a detective bureau, but for some reason the request of the municipalities has not been favored.

The facts are that serious crimes ranking among capital offences have been committed in this province and either the criminal has not been apprehended or the trial has not been satisfactory. New Brunswick cannot afford the stigma of unpunished crime to be written across the face of its record.

Since the Newcastle convention of 1911 the union has consistently pressed for better legislation for protection of women and children. Some forward legislation has been enacted, resulting in much good work, and the establishment of children's shelters in Saint John and Moncton.

There should be, at least, juvenile courts in every city and incorporated town in New Brunswick, not for the punishment of the working man's boy, but for the protection of the working man's boy against the fierce and bitter punishment pressed against an erring boy or girl who needs not prison bars, but kindly and firm treatment. I say it is not stripes, but caresses which the motherless boy should receive.

I know whereof I speak when I say that most of the juvenile delinquents are found among fatherless or motherless and friendless boys and girls, and the great wastage of human life is among children and mothers left destitute.

Mothers' Pensions.

Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan have provided mother's pensions. Nova Scotia appointed a commission to examine into the possibility of offering mothers' pensions to that province, and the estimate reported is \$100,000 per annum on the assumption that the population of Nova Scotia is \$222,000 and thirty-three widows per 1,000 of the population. In Nova Scotia it is proposed to assess the municipalities 50 per cent of cost of operation. Figuring on the ratio of population to Nova Scotia, our province might expect to provide mothers' pensions at a cost of \$105,000 without allowing for expense of administration, but allowing for the Workmen's Compensation Adjustments to mothers.

The cost of the Province generally and on the Counties particularly would not be burdensome, when it is pointed out that the weight of the tax would be borne by the manufacturing centres in the Cities and Towns.

It is a just rule of proportion that "Whatsoever a man soweth, that also shall he reap," and upon this rule it would be an investment to care for the child life providing means for mothers to maintain their young families in the home.

The scheme of mothers' pensions is not one of charity but a business problem of government to conserve the child life.

Single Tax.

The Union has been twice induced, to shift the burden of taxation onto land, but no County in the Province has been brave enough to try out the experiment, and consequently no harm has been accomplished in this direction.

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