

REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE UNION OF B. C. MUNICIPALITIES.

(Continued from page 378).

Re Hospitals.

That this Union strongly recommend that the Government be urged to take over the operation of all public Hospitals with the Province.

Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.

Summerland Municipality.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Government be requested to assume all charges for maintenance of persons convicted of desertion of their wives, and therefore remit the levy now made of a portion of such charge upon the municipality through whom such conviction was obtained.

Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.

That whereas the "Memorandum re Objects of a Local Government Board" refer to the need of a bureau for the purpose of giving general information and advisory assistance to municipalities.

And whereas such reference would generally be cumbersome and tedious;

And whereas a manual, published under the authority of the Government, treating of the procedure to be followed in carrying out the working of the Municipal and other Acts, together with suitable forms for By-laws and office routine would simplify and expedite the work of councils and officials, as well as minimize the work of the proposed Board if such a Board should be formed.

Be it therefore resolved, that this Union of B. C. Municipalities request the Government to publish a manual of procedure to be followed in carrying out the provisions of the Municipal and other Acts governing the work of Municipal Councils together with suitable forms for By-laws and the carrying out of office work.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

Saanich Municipality.

Whereas the recent decision of the British Columbia Court of Appeal in the case of the Bishop of Vancouver Island vs. the Corporation of the City of Victoria, will seriously affect the revenue of all municipalities to the detriment of all ratepayers;

And whereas it is deemed advisable to appeal the decision;

And whereas it would not be equitable to allow one Municipality to bear the whole cost of the appeal which may be of the utmost importance to all Municipalities.

Be it therefore resolved, that this Union recommends to all the Municipalities of the Province that they contribute to the City of Victoria a proportion of the cost of the appeal, such proportion to be based upon the population of each Municipality. Provided, however, that the contribution shall not exceed the sum of one cent for each member of the population of each municipality in accordance with the latest statistics prepared by the Inspector of Municipalities.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

North Vancouver District.

That in the opinion of this convention no church property should be exempt from taxation and that the government be urged to amend the Municipal Act to so provide.

Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.

The Municipality of Saanich asks that the Trespass Act be amended so as to give District Municipalities power regarding the right of the owner of private property to impound cattle straying onto such private property, whether the same be fenced or not, and to retain such straying cattle until he has been re-imbursed by the owner for the damage they have committed and the cost of their keep during the period of impounding.

Such power to be obtained by the passing of a By-law applicable to given definite areas so that it would be quite optional whether the powers asked for are taken up by a municipality or not, or if so taken up can be quashed at any time by repeal of the By-law.

Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.

Re Balfour Sanitarium.

Whereas this Convention appreciate fully the expenditure in this Province made by the Dominion Government, in respect to providing accommodation for returned men, suffering from tuberculosis;

And whereas it has been suggested that the Dominion Government may close the Sanitarium at Balfour;

And whereas the accommodation British Columbia is altogether inadequate to cope with the disease;

Be it resolved, that the Dominion Government, be urged to keep the Balfour Sanitarium open. This will help to relieve congestion at Tranquille, and permit many sufferers to take advantage of the increase accommodation, and that this resolution be forwarded to the Hon. Dr. McLean, Minister of Health of this Province, requesting him to place the matter before the proper Dominion authorities.

Moved by E. H. Bridgeman, seconded by C. F. McHardy, that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

Your Resolutions Committee having considered the question of the formation of a Local Government Board are of the opinion that the President of this convention should be asked to take a vote of all the delegates on this most important question.—Carried.

A standing vote was taken on this question, the result being 14 in favor, 52 against.—Lost.

That the powers of the Inspector of Municipalities be enlarged so that the official may be endowed with the powers which are proposed to be conferred upon a Local Government Board.

A standing vote was also taken on this question, and was defeated by a vote of 13 for and 53 against.—Lost.

Be it resolved that this Convention through their Secretary convey to the family of the late Mayor McKenzie of Nanaimo, their sincere sympathy and to record our unanimous appreciation of the splendid work that was always rendered this Union by our late Vice-President.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

Be it resolved that Mrs. J. W. Dickinson be written to, conveying the Union's sincere sympathy in the loss of her husband, the late Mr. J. W. Dickinson, Clerk for many years of North Cowichan, and to record our appreciation of his untiring work in the interests of this Union.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

In presenting the Auditor's Report, H. S. Cowper stated that the books had been examined and found correct, but as there was no means of checking up the amount each municipality should pay, he suggested that these amounts be revised from time to time.

Moved by Reeve Bridgman, and seconded, that the Auditor's Report be left in the hands of the Executive.—Carried.

Victoria.

Copy of Resolution adopted by the City Council at a meeting held on May 10th, 1920.

RESOLVED that the Union of B. C. Municipalities be informed that, whereas the Solicitor of the Union at one time held the position of Solicitor for this City and since has pleaded in the Courts on several occasions against the City, and about a year ago was engaged for the St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church to prevent, by means of the courts, the Council from collecting the taxes levied against that property, which action looks toward the annulment of all church property taxes in all the Municipalities of the Province, that these conditions were made plain at the Convention, and, in face of such knowledge, the said Solicitor was re-engaged; as a Municipality with the Province this Council claims it is improper for a solicitor to represent it as Solicitor for the Union and to act against it as solicitor for any party who is seeking to disturb the taxation of the Province as in the St. Andrew's case, and that, while such unseemly conditions obtain, this Council is of the opinion Victoria should absent itself from the activities of the Union.

After considerable discussion on this subject, it was moved by Reeve Bridgman, and seconded, That the City of Victoria be written to, that we regret that they take the position they do, and hope on reconsideration that they will once more join the Union; And that the case be presented to Victoria through a letter signed by the Secretary, and as much information as possible given.—Carried.

Moved by Mayor Gale, seconded by Mayor Vance, That the Executive Committee of the U. B. C. M. be requested at the earliest possible moment, to advise as to the duties of the Parliamentary Agent of the Union.—Carried.

Moved by Mayor Vance, seconded by Reeve Watson (Saanich);