

NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES' UNION

At a meeting of the executive council of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, held in Halifax on March 9th, it was decided to hold this year's convention in Windsor in August. The council had under consideration various matters referred to it at the last conference of the union, including suggested reform in the Assessment Act, amendments to the Victoria General Hospital Act, the Theatre and Cinematograph Act, and the establishment of a Central Prison Farm for Nova Scotia. The Union recommended as their nominees for two members of a committee to be appointed under the Fire Prevention Act C. E. Doane, ex-president of the council, and James Seeley, merchant, of Kentville.

Other matters which were considered that may be brought up at the next conference of the union were the poll tax on women, now entitled to vote, a suggested reform in the taxation for schools and the assessment of vessels not owned in Nova Scotia, and a simplified and more uniform system of municipal bookkeeping.

PERMISSION TO MAKE STOCK ISSUES

In connection with the proposed amendments to the Manitoba Sale of Shares Act, P. A. Macdonald, public utilities commissioner, and R. C. Wallace, commissioner for northern Manitoba, have recommended that before promotion stock can be sold, permission must be given by the public utilities commissioner. All advertising must comply with this prospectus, and state that the prospectus is on file at the office of the utilities commissioner. Before vendors stock can be sold, it is suggested that the company must obtain a special certificate from the utilities commissioner, and file proof with him that the development work referred to in this section and so far carried out has demonstrated that there is a reasonable prospect of a return to the purchaser of such securities. On the suggestion of members of the law amendments committee, the amendments were altered so that in case of a difference of opinion between a mining company and the public utilities commissioner an appeal could be made to a board to consist of the commissioner and two other persons to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

MANITOBA WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INCREASED

Payment of \$402,236 was made under the Manitoba Workmen's Compensation Act during the fiscal year of 1919, according to the annual report tabled before the legislature. During the year 2,829 accidents were reported as against 2,695 in the preceding year, an increase of about 5 per cent., notwithstanding the general strike, which paralyzed industry for six weeks in the busy season of the year. There were 1,684 claims filed; in 1918 there were 1,781. Thirty-three fatal accidents were reported in 1919, as against 42 in 1918; 70 permanent disability cases as against 102 in 1918 and 1,581 temporary disability cases, this being 6 less than in 1918. In 14 fatal accidents no claim has been made with the board at the time the report was made. In five fatal accident cases there were no dependents, and in one case the dependents were resident in an enemy country and, consequently, not entitled to compensation.

Total pensions in fatal and permanent disability cases amounting to \$402,236 were ordered by the board during the year. This amount is more than \$6,700 less than in 1918. Actual cash payments to workmen or dependents ordered during the year amounted to \$197,357. The volume of business being handled by the board is reported to be constantly increasing. It is pointed out that in 1919 there was an increase of 27 per cent. in the number of cheques issued in payment of compensation. The total premium income (estimated) for 1919, the report gives as \$722,972. Earned premiums in 1918 amounted to \$690,178. Administration expenses for 1919 were \$45,547.

THIRTEEN MILLIONS IN ALBERTA TELEPHONES

The replacement value of the government telephone system in Alberta is \$13,320,312, according to a report of J. B. Wray, consulting engineer, presented to the legislature on March 8th. The books of the telephone department show that there has been expended to date on the lines the sum of \$9,400,000. Mr. Wray, however, in making his report, allows 15 per cent. off the \$13,320,312 for depreciation through use and age, so that the total net reproduction cost of the entire system is given at \$11,280,881. According to the report, the appraisals have been made on the most conservative basis and nothing allowed for "going business" value.

Mr. Wray was former chief engineer for the Bell Telephone system at Chicago, and is a consulting engineer of the United States Bureau of Standards. He has been engaged on this work for nearly two years, and includes three huge volumes laid on the table of the House recently and a fourth one yet to come. The fourth volume will contain a summary of the report and recommendations for the future of the system, and, as such, will be the most important to the legislature.

Besides the figures of appraisal and reproduction costs, the first volume of the report contains some interesting statistics, showing that there are standing over the entire system 453,787 telephone poles on January 1st, 1919, all the figures in the report being based on the period up to that date. There were also at that time 13,409 miles of pole lines, 53,463 miles of overhead open wire, 28,995 miles of overhead cables and 24,071 miles of underground cables, a total of 106,529 miles of telephone lines. The reproduction cost of the system was based on a close inventory, the reproduction cost then being obtained by applying unit cost to plant statistics, and to these direct construction costs were added the overhead costs.

UNIFORMITY IN HEALTH INSURANCE

Companies writing health insurance in Canada have agreed on three standard forms of health insurance as follows:—

Form 1—Confinement to house policy.—Premium rates: Ages 18 to 50, premium \$8 for each \$5 weekly indemnity; ages 51 and up, premium \$11 for each \$5 weekly indemnity.

Form 2—Non-confinement policy.—Premium rates: Ages 18 to 50, premium \$9 for each \$5 weekly indemnity; ages 51 and up, premium \$12 for each \$5 weekly indemnity.

Form 3—Life indemnity policy, non-confinement policy.—Premium rates: Ages 18 to 50, premium \$9.50 for each \$5 weekly indemnity; ages 51 and up, premium \$12.50 for each \$5 weekly indemnity.

The wording of the insuring clauses covering temporary disability, permanent disability, surgical indemnity, hospital indemnity and indemnity if quarantined are all covered by the agreement.

The following companies, comprising almost the entire membership of the Casualty Insurance Managers' Association, have agreed to write on the above terms: Canada Accident and Fire, Car and General, Dominion of Canada Guarantee and Accident, Employers' Liability, General Accident, Globe Indemnity of Canada, Guardian of Canada, Imperial Guarantee and Accident, Law Union and Rock, London Guarantee and Accident, London and Lancashire Guarantee and Accident, Maryland Assurance, North American Accident, Norwich Union Fire, Ocean Accident and Guarantee, Preferred Accident, Provident, Railway Passengers, Royal Exchange, Travelers' Indemnity and Yorkshire.

"Combining for Foreign Trade" is the title of a booklet just issued by the Guaranty Trust Co., New York. It describes experience in aiding the formation of combinations under the Webb-Pomerene Law.