

Mr. J. Emerson, of Calgary. That Union also became popular at once and was listened to in municipal legislation. The Provincial Government, in consequence of its pressure, introduced not only a municipal Department, but a Minister of Municipal Affairs, whose office has been of great help in those affairs. No brighter man than the present Deputy Minister, John Perrie, of that department, attends our Conventions. Furthermore, on demands by the same Union, a government telephone system was established in Alberta similar to that of Manitoba, and which is even more of a blessing to the people there, owing to the greater isolation of many of the settlers and ranches.

The Union of Saskatchewan Municipalities was founded by Mayor Peter McAra, jr., of Regina, in 1906. In November, 1908, a Municipal Department was established in the province in sequence to that of Manitoba, and under a Deputy Minister. There is now a Minister of Municipal Affairs. The Deputy Minister, Mr. J. N. Bayne, is a model of what such an official should be. The authorities of the many new communities in his province are glad of his constant helpful advice and assistance, and of the excellent systems he has introduced for their guidance,—systems not overdone, but studiously adapted to their needs and wishes. Correct by-laws, good book-keeping, proper finance, are among the results. Some idea of the advances in his province may be had from the following passages in his last annual report:

"The system of records prepared and prescribed by this Department" he says, "for each class of municipality, has brought about a uniformity in accounting that has meant much for raising higher the condition of each Secretary-Treasurer's office. It has enabled each municipal clerk to become more efficient in his particular line, to compare more readily his work with others holding a similar position, and to render with more ease and satisfaction a proper financial statement to his council, the rate-payers, and all concerned.

"Inspectors engaged by the Department visit regularly the offices of all municipal secretary-treasurers.

"Interest in Saskatchewan's municipal work seems never to subside. Two municipal associations (or "parliaments"), do much to keep the flame ever bright and to assist in working for the advancement of municipal life and enterprise. These are "The Union of Saskatchewan Municipalities",—the members of which are drawn from the cities, towns and villages, or urban institutions,—and "The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities". The latter is by far the larger organization. The annual convention of the former was held in the city of Prince Albert, where business-like sessions were conducted with vim and energy. Addresses on "Practical Sanitation", "Public Health", "Development of future cities of Saskatchewan", and other subjects, were rendered by specialists. Many resolutions in connection with proposed changes in the City, Town and Village Acts were passed. Several of these found form in the amendments to the above acts at the ensuing session of the legislature. The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities' Convention at Regina proved larger than any previous year. Here too those in charge had provided a programme bristling with interesting subjects.

"On the whole, the municipal organizations of Saskatchewan are growing on safe, sensible lines."

I have quoted thus at length from this report because it gives a good picture of what is going on in each of the Western provinces. Among last year's resolutions of

the Union of Saskatchewan, adopted by the Government in whole or part, were those on village street lines, on village erection of buildings, on method of assessment for high pressure fire protection, on notice of claim for damages, on bonusing, on hospitals, on vagrants, on collection of tax arrears, and on a provincial home for incurables.

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities was founded in 1905 by Mr. C. S. Stevens, Mayor of Kamloops. In that Province there was then practically no municipal system.—the cities of Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster having special charters. The Government did not at first look favorably on the establishment of that Union, but almost immediately commenced to appreciate its work, and now consults it as its best adviser on such subjects. One of the great results is that a complete municipal system for the Province is under way, a special Commission having studied the whole matter and brought in one of the best reports on municipal institutions ever written, on which the new system is to be based. The chairman of the commission is Ex-Mayor Keary, of New Westminster, who for years was the active President of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, and the whole report has had the co-operation of the Union.

In the Province of Quebec, the head office of the Parent Union has served the purposes of a Provincial Union to some extent, but this year it has arranged for a Provincial Union, the first meeting of which was held at Montreal in March, 1913, being then successfully organized. It will hold its regular annual convention in October next. Such a body has plenty of work to do, as serious encroachments are constantly made in the Quebec Legislature on the rights on municipalities, and many reforms are badly wanted: but the spirit of the people is good—as it is everywhere—and there is a widespread desire for progress.

In Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Association has, since the formation of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, performed some of the purposes of a Provincial Union, but several of its officers have hindered full co-operation. A strong movement within its ranks from membership in the Union of Canadian Municipalities is now taking place.

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities was founded in 1906 by that invaluable gentleman, Mr. F. W. W. Doane, City Engineer of Halifax, than whom no man is held in higher esteem by municipal circles from one end of Canada to the other. That Union is considered one of the best conducted and most solid of all. With men like Doane, Roberts and McIlreith, they are bound to do brilliant work.

It is usually thought that in an old conservative Province they perhaps have special difficulties to contend with in introducing new methods and new things, for where things are already pretty well done there is some tendency to refuse to seek improvements. I need go no further than their magnificent Convention Report for 1912 to prove that they are putting that so called "old conservative" Province in the forefront of Canadian progress; for I notice that they have brought about the passage of a Town Planning Act, a Tenant Act, a Street Tree Act, a Public Utility Commission Act, and even an Act to advertise industrial opportunities and seek tourist trade; and are preparing an impatiently awaited set of standard town by-laws. If I had been asked without knowing, what province had produced this sheaf of legislation, I would have answered "Saskatchewan",—for all idea of an "effete East" is