

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

(Continued from page 370).

Division 12.—Sinking Funds; how to be kept and the investment of same.

Division 13.—Auditing and form of bookkeeping.

Withdrawn by Revelstoke.

16. That this Convention again recommends that the Government take over the Police Administration of the City, collection of fines and paying for the entire cost of Administration.

This Resolution was dealt with in Resolution No. 1.

17. That this Convention again recommends that the Administration of Education be taken over by the Government and provide for the cost by direct taxation.

The Committee moved the adoption of this resolution.—Carried.

18. That to provide for the suggestions mentioned under the memorandum re "Objects of a Local Government Board," this Convention suggests to the Provincial Government that the Municipal Inspector send out a general form of improvement usually undertaken by Municipalities, for each class of permanent improvement; the form to permanent improvement; the form to provide for the amount of work done, the cost, and other essential information of all cities and municipalities.

The Committee recommended the resolution be laid over for later consideration.

19. To substitute No. 3 this Convention recommends that City Officials should pass an examination.

This was not recommended by the Committee.—Report adopted.

20. To substitute No. 4 this Convention recommends that each year the Treasurer make a certified return:

- Of the general expenditure and receipts;
- And the amount required in the Sinking Fund together with a certified statement of the amount at the credit of the Sinking Fund and its composition together with a statement of all shortage in the sinking fund, at statement of monies outstanding and belonging to that account and of Debentures monies received and expended during the year.

The Committee did not recommend this.—Report of Committee adopted.

261. This Convention recommends that Councils be elected for a term of two years, that if necessary they be required to furnish a bond for the faithful performance and administration of all funds.

Moved and seconded that last year's resolution on this matter be adopted.—Carried.

22. It was moved and seconded that the Provincial Government be requested to have their Fire Insurance Department make an inquiry into the rates charged by Fire Insurance Companies and that the opinion of this Union is that a general reduction should be made, as rates as now charged appear to be excessive.—Carried.

23. City of Fernie.—That this Council do hereby protest against the appointment of a Local Government Board as they are unable to see any advantage to be gained by this formation.

That this Council strongly recommends that the Government take over the administration of Education and provide for the cost by direct taxation.

That Police Commissioners be required to have the same property qualifications as Aldermen.

That the Government take over the Fire Insurance of the Province.

That Mayor and Aldermen be elected for two years.

All these recommendations dealt with previously.

24. That Councils be given power to regulate Clubs in same manner as Hotels for sale of beverages.

After some discussion Mayor Gale moved an amendment to this: Moved by Mayor Gale (Vancouver), seconded by Mayor Johnston (New Westminster), that the Government be requested to enact legislation that will enable municipalities to exercise control, for the purpose of supervision and regulation, over Clubs operating in the Province.—Carried.

25. District of Saanich.—That subsection 103 of section 54 of the Municipal Act as amended in the year 1915 and 1916 be further amended by inserting after the 24th line thereof the following paragraph:

- To which the Municipality is prepared to give a service connection to any existing water or gas main or electric lighting power tract or main wires of the municipality on the same terms as is given

to adjacent piece of land or real property which actually fronts upon the said water or gas main or electric lighting or electric power track or main wire.

It was moved and seconded that this matter be referred to the Solicitor for re-draft.—Carried.

26. That the Trespass Act, being Chapter 230, of the Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1911, as amended by the Trespass Amendment Act 1918, be further amended by inserting the following paragraph at the end of subsection (1) of section 18.

The Council of any District Municipality as defined in Section 2 of the "Municipal Act" may by by-law determine that the expression "Enclosed land" as used in this Act shall include all cultivated lands whether surrounded by a fence or not, in the whole or any defined portion of the Municipality and all the provisions of this Act applicable to enclosed land shall apply to such cultivated lands.

Referred to the Solicitor for legal advice.

27. Corporation of the Township of Richmond.—WHEREAS notification has been given by the Dominion Government through the Soldier Settlement Board that lands purchased by the Government for settlement by returned Soldiers is non-taxable in the event of the soldiers abandoning the land, thereby causing it to revert to the Crown;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities is surprised to learn of the position which the Dominion Government takes in respect to the taxation of lands purchased for returned soldiers and emphatically protests against a course of action which places an increased burden of taxation upon returned soldiers who remain on the land and upon other tax payers, which militates against capital expenditures rendered necessary by increased population, which interferes detrimentally with the credit of Municipalities; and this Convention demands that lands purchased by the Dominion Government for the use of returned soldiers shall have the same status with respect to taxation as that upon which lands held by other owners are placed.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted, and that an amendment moved by Mayor Gale and seconded, that all lands owned by the Provincial and Dominion Government be taxable by the Municipality.—Carried.

28. WHEREAS the Dominion Government is the owner of 630 acres of land on Lulu Island, in the Municipality of Richmond, known as the Richmond Rifle Range;

AND WHEREAS the said Government claims exemption from taxation (except drainage and dyking rates) of the said lands;

AND WHEREAS exemption from taxation of these lands necessitates increased taxation on the remaining lands in the Municipality;

AND WHEREAS the said lands were held by private ownership before being purchased by the said Government about the year 1904;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities is of the opinion that lands which have been Crown-granted and thereby have become taxable, should thereafter remain subject to taxation.

F. A. McDiarmid moved the following amendment:

That it be an instruction to the Executive Committee to revive all the resolutions passed by the Union in former years dealing with the taxation of Crown lands and railway lands and after placing the same in proper shape transmit the same and urge their adoption by the Provincial and Dominion Governments.—Carried.

Moved by Mayor Gale, seconded by Councillor Russell, that it be the instructions of the executive to enlist the support for the foregoing resolution of the Union of Canadian Municipalities and Unions of all other Provincial Municipalities.—Carried.

29. North Vancouver.—That this Convention recommends that the Municipal Act be amended to provide that the percentage additions to be added to unpaid taxes in each year be not applicable to Local Improvement Rates.

This was not recommended by the Resolutions Committee.—Report adopted.

That this Convention recommends that provision be made in the Municipal Act, to provide for consolidation of arrears of taxes on Soldiers property in the year 1921.

This question is believed already provided for in the Act Amendment.—Principle adopted.