

**Convention of B. C. Municipalities—(Continued).**

divided into wards; and all councillors be elected for a two-year term, one in each ward retiring in alternate years. The reeve to be elected annually as at present. Carried.

That a resolution be submitted to the U. B. C. M. urging that Section 496 of the Municipal Act be so amended that persons seeking relief must have a thirty days resident qualification. Carried.

**POINT GREY.**

1. An alteration in the law by which deeds issued to tax sale purchasers may be registered without the present difficulty which is experienced. Carried.

2. The other matter is that of providing a larger rebate on payment of taxes, that a rebate of one-sixth of all taxes be urged. Carried.

**NEW WESTMINSTER ACT.**

With reference to our Solicitor, Mr. McDiarmid's report, this Committee would recommend to the Convention that the following resolution be forwarded to the Provincial Government:

Whereas the Municipal and Local Improvement Acts have been found both cumbersome, difficult to interrupt, and lacking in reference to other Acts affecting municipal administration, this Convention would most strongly urge upon the Provincial Government the advisability of empowering a Commission to take evidence from all quarters for the purpose of drafting a new Municipal Act, in which will be incorporated all matters affecting Municipal Government, and that further, after three years close touch and experience with Municipal Solicitor McDiarmid and Municipal Inspector Baird — whose knowledge and experience we believe would be invaluable — would respectfully urge that they be placed in charge of this work and that copies of our solicitors report be forwarded to the Premier and Attorney-General.

**BURNABY.**

Moved by Mr. A. G. Moore, seconded by Mr. Coldecott that the process of returning sub-divisions to acreage by means of cancellation be simplified and made as inexpensive as possible for the owners." "Plans Cancellation Act." Carried.

Moved by Ald. Gale, seconded by Mayor Gray, that this Association recognizing the absolute necessity of such a measure for the proper protection of life and limb, strongly urge the Provincial Government to so amend the Provincial Highway Act as to require all vehicles, other than motor cars, throughout the Province to carry at least one white light on the front and one red light on the rear while using any road or highway throughout the Province between dusk and dawn. Carried.

Moved by Ald. Gale, seconded by Mayor Gray, that this Association place itself on record as favoring the internment of all alien enemies in British Columbia and that we strongly urge the Dominion Government to take immediate steps toward that end. Carried.

**POWER TO BUY AND SELL WATER.**

Re Section 545, Sub-section 104: "It appears to me that it would contribute very materially toward clearing up the water situation in a number of municipalities if this sub-section were extended to include water. The municipalities have power to purchase, construct, operate and maintain works for supplying water. In very many cases it is much more convenient to carry out this undertaking by the purchase of water than by going to a new source of supply, and in a number of cases in the Province this has been done. In the case of Oak Bay and Saanich the Oak Bay Act, 1910, by its amendment, 1911, confers power upon the municipality of Oak Bay to sell water to the municipality of Saanich.

The same Act in an extremely indirect way confers a sort of power upon the municipality of Saanich to buy water from Oak Bay. It seems to me it would simplify matters all around if the power were clearly set out in the Municipal Act."

R. BAIRD,

Inspector of Municipalities.

Recommend that the powers be adopted.—Carrier.

"Alberni, B. C.

I have been requested by the Council of the City of Alberni to lay before your body the interpretation of Sub-section 82, Section 54, of the Municipal Act.

The Council consider that this section should so read that it is made plain that any responsibility for demoli-

tion of property for the prevention of the spread of fires shall not lay with the Cities of British Columbia." Carried.

That clause (b) of Section II. of the Constitution be amended by striking out the words "or solicitor, engineer, health officer, clerk or electrician," and substituting therefor the words: or any official that the Council may appoint." Carried.

**SUGGEST WOMEN COUNCILLORS.**

Moved by Ald. Wright, seconded by Ald. Foreman, that Whereas at the Provincial Elections held in this Province on September 14th last the vote entitling women to the franchise was passed by a large majority; therefore be it resolved, and it is hereby resolved, that this convention of representatives of British Columbia Municipalities held at Vernon, October 11th, 12th and 13th, 1916, press upon the Provincial Government to pass the necessary legislation to allow women to sit and act as councillors, etc., under the municipal clauses act providing they possess the usual qualifications.

Referred to incoming executive to see what the next Government will do in the matter.

Moved by Mayor McBeath, seconded by Mayor Smith, That this Convention endorse the principle of the exemption from taxation other than local improvement taxes of the actual ground upon which churches are erected and used exclusively for the public worship of God, and would earnestly recommend to the Provincial Government that it place the necessary legislation to this end upon the Statute books of this Province. Carried.

Mayor Barber brought in Report of Taxation Committee. Your Committee beg to report as follows:

11. That the School Board estimates be submitted to the Municipal Council within thirty days after the School Board take office instead of on the 1st February as now. Adopted. Carried.

2. Resolved that Municipal Councils be permitted to add to the School estimates a sufficient sum to allow for a rebate, the same as may be given on the general rate in order to encourage prompt payment of school taxes within the rebate period that such surplus be carried forward for school purposes in the following year. Adopted. Carried.

3. That all monies due from the Provincial Government grants for school purposes be paid monthly. Carried.

**WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE REPORT.**

The Special Committee on War Relief brought in the following report:—

We, your Special Committee on War Relief Act, beg to report as follows:—

That while we are in full sympathy with the aims of the War Relief Act, and the protection which it has afforded to those who have volunteered their services for King and Country, we are satisfied that very serious difficulties have been encountered by many of the Municipalities in the carrying out of the provisions of the said Act. We would therefore respectfully recommend that the said Act be amended as follows:

(1) The provisions of the War Relief Act shall not apply to the assessment or levying of taxes by any municipality, and all assessments and levies heretofore made shall be accepted as valid notwithstanding the fact that the persons affected come within the provisions of Sections 2 or 3 of the said Act.

(2) In any action or other proceedings by any municipality for the collection of taxes, the onus of proof that any person comes within the provisions of sections 2 or 3 of the said Act shall be upon the person claiming or entitled to the benefit thereof, unless a statutory declaration proving the fact, shall be filed by or on behalf of such person in the office of the municipal clerk of the municipality where the land affected by such action or other proceeding is situate. A copy of this section shall be printed on all assessment and tax notices.

(3) Within one month after the passage of this Act, on or before the first day of February in each subsequent year during the continuance of the said war, each municipality may compile a statement of arrears of taxes owing by any person coming within the provisions of Section 2 or 3 of the said Act, and forward same to the Provincial Secretary, and the Minister of Finance shall, out of the Provincial Treasury, advance to the municipalities 75 per cent. of said arrears. Such municipalities shall hypothecate to the said Minister of Finance the said ar-