

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION.

The second annual convention of the Ontario Municipal Association opened in the city of London on Tuesday, September 11th, with Mayor Teetzal, of Hamilton, presiding. The first session was devoted to preliminary business. The president, in his address, reviewed the efforts of the association to secure improved laws. A special committee was appointed to report on several questions which came up for consideration. This committee reported the next morning, and after considerable discussion on the following clauses of the report were adopted:

1. That a separate ballot be provided for mayors, where the aldermen are elected by general vote. The idea is to prevent an undue number of spoiled ballots.

2. In cities and towns not adopting the local improvement system under section 682 of the Assessment Act, that notwithstanding any petition against the laying down of any sidewalk as local improvement, the council should have power to proceed with the work, if in the opinion of the city engineer and two-thirds of the whole council such work is desirable or necessary in the public interest, and to provide for the cost thereof by special assessment on the property benefited.

3. That the provision relating to the assessment of farm lands in cities be repealed.

4. That, as a principle, real and personal property be assessed at its fair value.

5. That the Assessment Act be so amended as to distribute the burden of taxation more equally, and with this end in view the assessment of personal property should be made without regard to the debts owing on account of it.

6. That provision be made in the Assessment Act that real property belonging to or in the possession of any person or incorporated company, and extending over more than one ward in any city or town, may be assessed together in any one of such wards at the option of the assessor, or that the assessment of the property may be apportioned amongst two or more of such wards in such manner as he may deem convenient, and that in either case the property shall be valued as a whole or as an integral part of the whole.

7. That the personal property of incorporated companies, other than chartered banks, should be liable to assessment to the same extent as that of any private individual or partnership, and that sub-

section 2, of section 39, of the Assessment Act, should be amended accordingly

8. That no sale of lands for taxes in any city or town should be invalid by reason of there having been goods or chattels within the county belonging to or in the possession of the person assessed, for the lands or goods or chattels upon such lands, liable to seizure for taxes, and of no levy by distress having been made upon any such goods or chattels for the payment of taxes due in respect of the lands.

9. That the board of registrars should define the polling sub-divisions for elections to the legislative assembly, and all voters should register with the board of registrars under the Manhood Suffrage Registration Act.

10. That the Industrial Schools Act be amended so as to compel parents or guardians to pay for the keep of children committed.

11. That councils be given power to demand that the capacity of all baskets and boxes in which fruit or vegetables are sold otherwise than by weight shall be plainly marked thereupon.

12. That the act requiring candidates for aldermen to file a statutory declaration of qualification be extended to all cities, towns and villages.

13. That councils have power to fix the

salary of police magistrates where the municipality pays the said salary.

14. That all expenses in connection with an election of members to the legislative assembly be borne by the province.

15. That council be empowered, in the case of the property of any indigent person applying for sustenance and receiving aid, to allow the taxes to stand as a lien against the property.

16. That the legislature be asked to define and limit the meaning of the word "non repair of highways."

17. That the Free Library Act be amended by eliminating the rate of a half mill, the present statutory limitation, and giving discretionary power to the council to increase the grant to an amount not exceeding the present limit.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Mayor Keating, St. Catharines, president; Mayor Nelson, Guelph, first vice-president; Mayor Payment, Ottawa, second vice-president; S. H. Kent, Hamilton, secretary; J. T. Hall, Hamilton, assistant secretary. Executive Committee—E. G. Reynolds, Brockville; Thomas Caswell, Toronto, Mayor Slater, Niagara Falls; C. A. Kingston, London.

It was decided to hold the next convention in the city of St. Catharines during the second week of September, 1901.

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