

# THE CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

City of Montreal and  
United States \$2.25  
Canada, Great Britain  
and Countries in  
Postal Union \$2.00

Published Monthly by

The Canadian Municipal Journal Co., Limited  
HARRY BRAGG President  
FREDERICK WRIGHT Editor  
CORISTINE BUILDING, MONTREAL

Any article appearing in these pages may be reproduced provided full credit is given to the Journal.

Although the Canadian Municipal Journal is the Official Organ of the Union of Canadian Municipalities and other bodies yet these are not responsible for any other matter published in its columns than what in each article or itself is stated to be official by any of these bodies

VOL. XIV.

SEPTEMBER 1918.

No. 9.

## CONTENTS.

As Others See Us .....	263	A Scrap of Paper .....	279
Meeting of Quebec Municipal Men .....	265	Bolsheviki Doctrine .....	279
Fifth Sunday Movement .....	266	Wooden Shipbuilding (D. Jos. Shea) .....	280
Training of Social Workers .....	266	Tax Free Bonds and Municipality (James Murray) ..	281
Lest We forget .....	267	A Sinking Fund Aesolution .....	282
Orders-in-Council (E. B. Roberts) .....	268	A New Tax Act (F. H. Bell) .....	283
Municipal Government in Ontario (G. H. Kent) .....	269	Standardization of Municipal Accounts (E. T. Samp- son) .....	284
Convention of Municipal Executives of Quebec .....	270	A Bachelors Tax .....	285
The Forum (Howard S. Ross) .....	276		
Political League to Enforce Peace .....	277		

## Meeting of Municipal Executives of Province of Quebec

On August 28 this Journal invited a number of municipal executives of Quebec to meet us at Freeman's Hotel, Montreal, the object being to freely discuss in the light of actual experience the new Municipal Act of the Province and the Municipal Department which was recently established by virtue of the act. If we in our modesty did not expect a large response to our invitation we were agreeably disappointed, for practically all the principal urban councils were represented at the meeting, and Mr. Oscar Morin, the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs had a great opportunity, of which he took full advantage, to discuss and explain the three acts, passed at the last session of the Quebec legislature, under which his department was established and is administered.

The impression one got from the meeting was that of earnestness and determination on the part of the delegates, not only to learn all they possibly could about the new statutes and to know all about the department itself, but to do their share in making the municipal administration of the Province of Quebec a success. That much study had been given to the subject by many of those present was easily seen in the intelligent suggestions put forward to perfect the new code, all of which were welcomed by the Deputy-Minister, who in turn went to much trouble to elucidate each clause.

Part of the time was taken up in discussing the regulations concerning sinking funds. The fact that every municipality making new loans has to place its sinking fund in the hands of the Provincial Treasurer, for which it receives in interest  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, less administration expenses, naturally met with much adverse criticism, principally because of the low rate of interest. It is very evident that the placing of this clause in the Act was to ensure the municipalities keeping up their sinking funds—which in the past have been mere names—though, no doubt, those municipalities whose sinking funds are up to date and properly secured for

the bond holders, will be encouraged to "carry on" the same lines. This can be done through a special clause which authorizes the government for good reasons to allow the sinking fund of any municipality to be deposited elsewhere than in the office of the Provincial Treasurer. It is the delinquent municipalities of the past that will be affected, and until they can satisfy the Minister that their sinking funds are properly taken care of, they should be compelled to place their sinking funds with the government at the low rate of interest. A sinking fund is a trust fund created for the security of the buyers of the loan, and consequently is not the property of the municipality itself. This fact is not sufficiently appreciated by our municipal councils, and we take it that the government of Quebec is determined to see that the local councils of the province do realize the fact—hence the stringent regulations regarding sinking funds.

Another point that was taken up related to the amounts to be set aside for sinking funds. In the past it has been "a minimum of one or two per cent" of the loan per annum. Under the new statutes this rule of thumb system of computing interest has been done away, and before a loan is allowed to be floated, a proper computation is made by the Department which may even reach as high as 4 per cent—according to the length of time the issue has to run before maturity. Such restrictions on municipal issues are bound to raise the financial standing of municipal Quebec, and rightly had the general support of the delegates.

Probably the principal outcome of the meeting was the decision of the delegates to form a Provincial union or association, and a strong committee was formed to draw up a constitution. For ourselves, we were delighted at our successful efforts to bring together the mayors, aldermen and officials of the Province of Quebec, but we were more delighted to know that everyone went away feeling that his journey had not been wasted.