

Union of B. C. Municipalities (Continued)

pital Amendment Act, 1916, which reads as follows: "The corporation of the municipality in which any person has resided for at least thirty days prior to being admitted to a hospital receiving aid under this Act shall be liable to pay to the governing body of the hospital the charges for his or her care and treatment and shall pay such charges from time to time upon demand of the hospital authorities. In default of payment of any such charge within thirty days after any such demand, the said charges may be recovered by the governing body of such hospital as a debt due by such municipality to the hospital."

Sub-section (4) of Section 7, Hospital Amendment Act of 1913 reads as follows: "No hospital shall charge against a municipal corporation for the maintenance of any patient coming under the conditions of sub-section (1) of this section a higher rate than one dollar per day."

At the close of Dr. MacEachern's address, Mr. R. S. Day, of Victoria, representing the Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital, made some additional remarks upon the same subject.

The Convention adjourned during the afternoon, to take a motor drive to Capilano Canyon, along the Marine Drive to Caulfields, and to the Dollar Mills at Roach Point.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9th.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 10.15 a.m. The Hon. the Attorney-General was present at this session.

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE.—(Continued)

24. "That the President appoint a resolutions committee fourteen days before the next Convention, such Committee to meet one day before the Convention, and that the Municipalities be requested to send in the names of their delegates to the Secretary, thirty days before the Convention, in order that the President may make his election."

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

25. It was moved and seconded that a vote of thanks be tendered Dr. MacEachern and Mr. Day for their addresses at yesterday's luncheon.—Carried.

26. CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER:—It was moved and seconded that the costs of works under the Local Improvement Act should be divided between abutting lands.—Carried.

27. CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER:—The Committee refers the following resolution received from the City of North Vancouver to the Convention for consideration: "That the Municipal Elections Act be so amended that the Returning Officer, presiding at Municipal Elections, be empowered to engage and swear in, Interpreters when occasion demands."

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be filed.—Carried.

28. "The Resolutions Committee recommends that the Victoria delegates be given opportunity to move resolutions dealing with the advisability of appointment of a Local Government Board."

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

29. It was moved by Alderman Sargent (Victoria), seconded by Alderman Irwin (North Vancouver): "That the feature of the Local Government Board be not a part of the new Municipal Act and that instead, where necessary the powers of the Municipal Inspector, Mr. Baird, should be increased in the Act itself."

Upon the question being put to the Convention the resolution was carried by a vote of forty for and six against it.—Carried.

30. It was moved by Reeve Bridgman (North Vancouver District), and seconded: "That the Convention proceed to discuss powers that were to be granted to the Local Government Board."—Carried.

31. VICTORIA.—"The Resolutions Committee recommends that Mayors and Reeves should have power to return for reconsideration any resolutions passed by the Council, as now provided in Municipal Act."

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

32. VICTORIA.—"That the present power of Mayors and Reeves to appoint Committees be continued, subject to approval of Council or change by resolution of Council."

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

33. "The Resolutions Committees recommends that if

a Local Government is appointed, notwithstanding the opinion of the Convention, there should be three Commissioners and that the Inspector of Municipalities shall be the Secretary of the Board."

Upon the question being put to the Convention this resolution was lost.—Not Carried.

The New Municipal Act.

The Hon. Mr. Farris, Attorney-General of British Columbia, addressed the Convention in the following words:

"Mr. President and Gentlemen,—The question of a new municipal act has been before the Convention for two years as a question of policy of the Government, and I felt and the other members of the Government felt that in drafting a new municipal act the responsibility rested upon the Government. At the same time, that as this was a matter affecting very vitally the different portions of the Province in its different municipalities, the Government should consult them to a certain extent. We adopted that course. In the first place we accepted your municipal solicitor as the draughtsman of the Act, and we have had him working on this for a considerable period of time. The idea primarily adopted was that that there should be a wider scope to municipal powers. It was felt also, under that scheme, that there must be more or less of a co-ordination, a method of keeping matters in check, and the idea of this Local Government Board was evolved was put up to the Convention last year. The outlined scheme of a Local Government Board was discussed very carefully last year, and was endorsed by a very overwhelming majority at the Convention. The Government took the recommendation seriously and we have retained your municipal solicitor to work along these lines in working out the Act, and we felt that while certain portions of the Act must come into operation at the last session, that many other features of the Act should be laid over for further consideration. A Committee was appointed by you to meet and co-operate with the Government in the consideration of this Act on the basis of the Local Government Board. After discussion with the Municipal Committee of the Legislature, and since that time, the Act has been re-drafted and put in your possession in its present form. You come along now and oppose the principle of the Local Government Board, and I am not just clear as to why this opposition has been put in force this morning. Alderman Sargent's argument is that there is too much legislative machinery. With that I have a good deal of sympathy, but nevertheless that is not a convincing argument. The fact that in some things there is too much machinery is not a convincing argument that the Board should not have this machinery at all, the Local Government Board must necessarily have the requisite power as a reviewing body.

The work that has been done this last year on this Act has been done almost entirely under the supervision of this organization. I am not saying now whether we are going to put the Act through or not. I do not think that it would be any reflection on this organization if we do put in a Local Government Board. Now, if we decide to do so, to carry out the scheme we have been co-operating upon with you for the last year and a half to two years, I think we are then entitled to the practical knowledge and experience of the men of this Province.

I would point out, and I would emphasize this, that because the Government of the Province has, I think, made a new departure in conferring with you as we have, right through this Act, it does not mean that we are turning over to you our legislative responsibilities; that in the ultimate disposal of this question after we have received all your suggestions, the legislative responsibility still rests upon the Legislature at the next session. If I were speaking this morning in a personal way, I would say: Very well, if the municipalities do not want this Act, they can keep the old one; but I am here as a responsible member of the Government dealing with a situation that is to come before the Government of the Province and the members of Parliament. I tell you frankly, that as far as my individual opinion is concerned, I am not affected by the vote taken here this morning, but in view of the fact that the Union at Penticton, with a full opportunity of discussing this matter, gave their endorsement to it at that time, and on the basis of that a committee was appointed and came over to the House to discuss the matter, I do not think the last word has been said.

It is an open question, what will happen when the Legislature meets, that will be decided at that time, but it is only fair that in view of the stand this organization has