

U. C. M. CONVENTION—Continued.

MUNICIPALIZATION OF HOUSING.

MAYOR PRIEUR.

The President then introduced Mayor Prieur of Pointe-aux-Trembles, P.Q., Secretary of the Union of Quebec Municipalities, who gave an excellent paper urging the building of cottages by the councils, part of which was as follows:—

"The subject that I have been called upon to take up to-day, namely, the 'Municipalization of Housing,' is of special importance at this time because of the effect of the shortage of houses on the economic and social life of the community." The speaker first gave credit to those industrial concerns that had built housing communities for their workers, after which he gave a resume of the reasons that underlay the shortage of houses in different parts of the world, and finished his paper by urging the councils themselves to build workmen's cottages. "By these means only," maintained the speaker, "would a municipality be assured of a healthy and happy community."

Consideration of Mr. Prieur's paper was deferred until a later session.

Resolutions on Bonusing, Election of Mayors and Aldermen.

Mr. Arthur Roberts, K.C., Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, presented the following report:—

The Address of the President, the reports of the Secretary-Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Parliamentary Agent, which were referred to your Committee on Resolutions by the Convention, have received our careful attention and as a result thereof we beg to report:—

(1) We are sure that we are expressing the sincere sentiments of the Convention when we give expression to our deep regret that physical incapacity has caused our genial Assistant Secretary, Mr. G. S. Wilson, to tender his resignation, and while reluctantly accepting the same, we wish to place on record our gratitude for and appreciation of his faithful services in that office for so many years, coupled with the earnest wish that he will yet be spared to enjoy many years of happy life.

(2) As a small expression of appreciation and friendship, we recommend that Mr. Wilson be presented with a gratuity of Five Hundred Dollars and at the same time to say that more generous treatment is prohibited only by our lack of funds.

(3) Owing to the uncertainty of the financial position of the Union, we consider it desirable that the future remuneration of the Secretary-Treasurer be a fixed salary and that the same, for the ensuing year, be \$2,500.00.

(4) Acting on suggestions contained in the Presidential Address we recommend the following resolutions to the Convention:—

- (a) Resolved, that this Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities place itself on record as being strongly opposed to any system of municipal bonusing.
- (b) Resolved, that in the opinion of this Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, the annual election of Mayors, Controllers, Councillors and Aldermen is not in the best interests of the municipalities concerned, and that such elections should be for at least two years.
- (5) Two other resolutions were submitted to your Committee, viz.:—

- (a) Dealing with the rate of exchange and prohibition of imports, and
- (b) Military control of municipalities under circumstances of public disorder.

Your Committee begs to report that they were of the unanimous opinion that these resolutions should not be placed before the Convention.

On consideration of the foregoing, clauses 1, 2 and 3 were carried.

Consideration of Clause 4 relating to municipal bonusing was discussed and action thereupon postponed until a later session.

The Convention thereupon adjourned.

REVIEW OF POLICE AND FIRE BRIGADE.

After the meeting the delegates inspected the Quebec Police Force and the Fire Brigade, the police being brought out in full dress uniform by Chief Trudel and formed in a body in front of the City Hall, where Mayor Fisher of Ottawa, President addressed them very briefly, congratulating them on their fine appearance and expressing the hope

that they would be "very lenient towards the delegates to the Convention during their stay in Quebec."

The Fire Brigade was also called out in full force, and the fire fighters gave an exhibition of fire drill. They paraded in front of the municipal building, erected ladders and turned on several streams of water on to the City Hall in a mimic fight against fire.

Both the police and the firemen were very much admired by the delegates, who warmly congratulated the Mayor upon the two fine departments and greeted the men with rounds of applause as they marched past and went through their various movements.

Visit to Quebec Bridge.

On invitation of Mayor Samson and the City Council of Quebec the delegates were entertained in the afternoon to a trip around the harbour at Quebec on the steamer "Champlain," travelling by river as far as the mighty Quebec Bridge. On returning, the delegates were taken through the Harbour Commissioners' sheds, where the lack of business was the subject of general remark, the opinion being expressed that the advantages of the port of Quebec were not being fully used.

AFTERNOON SESSION, WEDNESDAY, JULY 28th, 1920.

On returning to the City Hall, the Convention reassembled.

"Hands Across Canada."

Mr. Saunders, City Clerk of Camrose, Alberta, gave a very interesting paper on the development of western municipalities and made a very eloquent and strong appeal for more unity and better understanding between the various portions of the country. The slogan should be, said Mr. Saunders, "Hands across Canada," and there should be no West nor East.

Discussion on Bonusing and Tax Exemptions.

The question of bonuses was again taken up. Mayor Bouchard of St. Hyacinthe was opposed to bonuses, and believed that there should be some kind of legislation to prevent the granting of such bonuses.

Alderman Dixon of Montreal supported the Mayor of St. Hyacinthe and would even have a federal law against bonuses.

Mayor Garceau of Drummondville thought that the municipalities should be allowed to make grants under certain circumstances.

The Mayor of Sherbrooke thought that although in Sherbrooke they had found the granting of bonuses a very profitable and satisfactory thing, some kind of legislation should be enacted to regulate the matter.

Alderman Collier of Quebec said he endorsed what Mayor Bouchard had said, but he would go further, and would have all municipalities cut out exemptions from taxation. No industry should have the right to come to the City Council and ask to be exempt from taxes for 5, 10 or 15 years. The thing had absolutely to be stopped. The real principle of fair taxation was that taxes should be equally borne by all and exemptions were a real injustice to a large portion of the ratepayers. He believed the Provincial Government should draft laws to prohibit exemptions from taxes in every case. Mr. Collier's remarks were very loudly applauded by all the delegates present who, with the exception of one perhaps, were all very evidently in favor of prohibiting all exemptions from taxation.

No resolution was adopted, although the resolution opposing the granting of bonuses was carried with only one delegate, the Mayor of Drummondville, voting against it.

The Convention thereupon approved Clauses 4 and 5 of the Report of the Committee on Resolutions, declaring

- (a) Strong opposition to any system of municipal bonusing.
- (b) Favoring a two-year term for Mayors, Controllers, Aldermen and Councillors.
- (c) Declining to consider certain resolutions which had been presented respecting the rate of exchange and prohibition of imports and military intervention on occasions of public disorder,

it being held that these matters did not come within the sphere of the Union of Canadian Municipalities.

The proposed resolutions were accordingly withdrawn.

The session concluded with a discussion on Municipal Housing Schemes participated in by Dr. Rondeau, C. W. McCrea, D. D. McDonald, J. P. Dixon and E. T. Sampson. Further consideration of the question was deferred.