

CONVENTION OF B. C. MUNICIPALITIES— (Continued)

September 19th, 1918.

The President called the Convention to order at 9 a.m.

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE (Continued):

12.—Corporation of the City of North Vancouver:

That the Provincial Government be petitioned to pass all necessary legislation, and thereupon that the government appoint a hydro-electric commission for this province with like or similar powers and authority granted to the hydro-electric commission appointed by the government of the Province of Ontario, under and by virtue of Sections 8, 9, 10 and sub-sections thereof, Cap. 39, R.S.O. 1914, and amendments thereto.

The Committee strongly recommends that the Convention go on record in favour of this resolution, and that it be taken as a basis for one of the clauses comprising a Public Utilities Act.

Moved by Alderman McBain, seconded by Clerk Greig, That this resolution be referred for consideration with the new Act.—Carried.

13.—Municipality of North Cowichan:

Whereas, the Fisheries Department has made regulations forbidding Cowichan and Nanaimo Indians to catch fish without a special permit, and to sell fish to residents; regarding which the Chiefs of the Cowichan and Nanaimo Indians have addressed the Deputy Minister of Fisheries;

And whereas, injury to the future of fisheries is not caused by fishing with hook and line, but by the use of nets, whether licensed or unlicensed;

And whereas, it is evident that the free sale of fish caught with hook and line will afford an important addition to the local food supply and to forbid such capture and sale can have no object but to favour some licensed canning concern to the detriment of the general food supply of the nation.

This Municipal Council respectfully urges on the Honourable the Dominion Minister of Marine and Fisheries that he should throw open all sea and river areas to commercial fishing with hook and line by all comers, and at the same time take adequate steps to have all netting regulations faithfully observed. Under the present arrangement there is no adequate patrolling to prevent illegal netting.

Whereas, the administration of the Fisheries Department has presented many remarkable features in this neighbourhood during recent times;

And whereas, it is necessary for the moral health of our people that public confidence in that branch of the administration should be re-established;

This Municipal Council respectfully urges upon the Honourable the Dominion Minister of Marine and Fisheries that he should make personal investigation into the administration of the Fisheries Department on this coast during the last two years; or if a personal investigation is not practicable, then we respectfully urge that it be made through persons entirely unconnected with the Fisheries Department and also unconnected with any canning concern.

And we respectfully urge the desirability of remedial action being taken as soon as the enquiry is completed.

The Committee refers this Resolution to the Convention without comment.

Moved by Reeve Fraser, seconded by Alderman Harvey, That this Resolution receive the endorsement of the Convention.—Carried.

New Resolutions:

1. **Corporation of Esquimalt:**—A resolution proposing to limit the speed of motor trucks of one ton and over to six miles an hour.

On motion the Committee decided not to recommend the endorsement of the resolution.

Moved by Reeve Fraser, seconded by Councillor Loutet, That the above resolution be not adopted.—Carried.

2. **Corporation of Esquimalt:**—Providing for the imposition of property qualifications on candidates for Board of Police Commissioners.

The Committee endorses this proposal.

Moved by Reeve Fraser, seconded by Alderman Woodside, That this resolution be adopted.

3. **Provision of cheap homes for soldiers and sailors.** Referred to convention without comment.

Moved by Reeve Fraser, seconded by Alderman Harvey, That this resolution be laid over for consideration, and that a special committee be appointed to report on the matter.—Carried.

4. **City of Victoria.**—Resolved, that where a municipality improves any road, street or highway within its boundaries for the benefit of the public, and, in so doing, changes the grade of such road, street or highway, no claim for damage shall lie with the owners of abutting properties unless the grade, on a distance of at least 300 feet in length of such road, street or highway is altered by such change, and the change is at least equal to two per cent of the total 300 feet, and only where a change of at least, on an average of one and one-half feet has taken place opposite anyone property shall the owner be entitled to make any claim for damage because of such change in grade.

The Committee refers this for consideration with the new Act.

Moved by Alderman Sargent, seconded by Councillor Loutet, That the recommendation of the Committee be adopted.—Carried.

5. **Re Library Act.**—Moved by Mayor Gale, seconded by Alderman Sargent, That the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, in annual convention assembled, after explanations of the provisions of the draft bill for a Library Law for British Columbia, expresses its approval of the principles of the measures taken, and urges on the Provincial Government its enactment, with such modifications as further investigation may prove advisable, at the forthcoming session of the Legislature.

This matter was left to the consideration of the Convention.

Moved by Mayor Gale, seconded by Alderman McBain, That this resolution be laid over for further consideration by the Convention.—Carried.

6.—City of Alberni.

That the City of Alberni, in Council assembled, strongly recommend that the 10 years' payment clause as is now in force in the City of Victoria, in regard to delinquents be embodied in the new Municipal Act, to come into force next year. It might be optional or definite.

Committee disagreed as to action to be taken.

Moved by Alderman McBain, seconded by Auditor Crehan, That this resolution be laid over for further consideration by the Convention.—Carried.

7.—City of Prince George.

Whereas in certain municipalities a large percentage of the assessed property is owned by the Government, and is therefore exempt from taxation.

Whereas the said property derives all the benefits of public improvements and consequently acquires an enhanced value with no corresponding advantage to the municipalities.

Whereas this condition places the Government as a speculator in city land values with discriminating favour shown them by being exempt from taxation.

Whereas this is manifestly an unfair additional burden on struggling municipalities.

We resolve that the Municipal Act be amended to embody one or other of the following remedies:

- That Government shall pay taxes on all Crown property in municipalities when such property is not used for Government purposes.
- That the Government shall sell all Crown owned property in cities to the highest bidder without reserve.
- Permit municipalities to tax Crown owned property, such taxation to be a first charge against such property when sold, and municipalities to have power to borrow against such taxation.

The Committee strongly endorsed this resolution.

Moved by Clark Farmer, seconded by Reeve Fletcher, That the resolution of the Committee be adopted.—Carried.

8. Corporation of Oak Bay.

That the attention of the Finance Minister be called to the serious effect on municipal borrowings which will be caused by the issuance of Dominion Bonds free of Dominion income tax.

The Committee disagreed on what action should be taken.

Moved by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Alderman Sargent, That this resolution be laid over for further consideration by the Convention.—Carried.