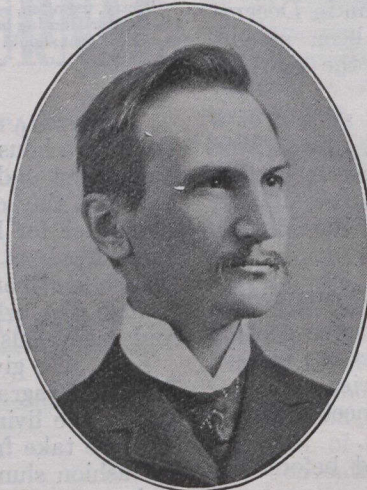


Union of Province of Quebec Municipalities



ALD. LARIVIERE
Montreal
President

Who acted as Chairman and who was elected President.



W. D. LIGHTHALL, K.C.
Hon. Sec.-Treas.
U. of Can. Municipalities

Who represented the Parent Union and helped the baby Union to start off properly.



TALBOT M. PAPINEAU
Montreal
Hon. Sec.-Treas.

Who had done the preliminary work as Secretary pro-tem. and was elected Secretary.

Canadian Advantages

In a letter under the above title in "The Public," the report of the correspondent of the reason why citizens from the United States are settling in our Western Provinces, he says the replies to his enquiry have practically been the same "Opportunities are greater: business is better; and the tax systems are better." He says:—"In Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta a farmer pays no taxes on his personal property and improvements. The Alberta legislature last year wiped out all taxes on personal property and improvements, except in the cities that have special charters. Calgary taxes improvements, but the new city council will probably abolish the improvement tax, and the city does not tax personal property. Medicine Hat does not tax personal property, imposes a tax of only one or two mills on improvements, and gets its chief revenue from a land-value tax. Lethbridge does not tax personal property and will abolish improvements taxes in 1914. Edmonton taxes land values only."

"While in British Columbia I obtained the assessment and tax figures of about 75 farmers living within ten miles of the Washington line, and of 50 farmers living in Washington within 5 miles of the British Columbia line. The figures show that a Washington farmer pays from two to four times as much tax as the British Columbia farmer with the same amount of property of all kinds.

"Some of those British Columbia municipalities have had the land-value tax system for as much as twenty years, and not one has ever gone back to the old system after trying the land-value tax."

The only good government is government by intelligence—intelligence on the part of public officials regarding methods of work, and intelligence on the part of the general public relative to government acts and citizen needs."—Bureau of Municipal Research, New York.

N.B. Town Planning Act

The Town Planning Act passed by the legislature of New Brunswick this year, places wise restrictions on various phases of city and town development. A brief summary of the principal clauses is given herewith:

Any town or city council may prepare a town planning scheme, but before it is acted upon, it must be approved by the Government. Thus, all future developments in the towns and cities of the province are carried out under Government supervision; and ample provision has to be made for suitable traffic highways, proper sanitary conditions, open spaces for parks and playgrounds, the number and nature of buildings per acre, etc.

Local commissioners, appointed subject to Government approval, shall be the responsible authorities for supervising the development of new town areas. These commissioners are given important powers in order to compel conformity to the law, but private rights, when injured, must receive compensation.

It is perhaps unfortunate, that city governments require such paternalistic regulations on the part of the provincial authorities. Past experience has made it plain, however, that such regulations are, in the case of most cities, absolutely essential if cities and towns are to be developed along sane and healthful lines. It would be to the advantage of the other provinces to follow the lead of New Brunswick in this important matter. Conservation.

Publicity for Real Estate Ownership

Not a bad proposal, that of requiring city real estate to be labeled with the true owner's name. It would "run to cover" the responsible promoters of a good many abuses, and all the more if vacant lots as well as buildings were required to bear the label.—The Public.