

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).

part and that part, but this is not normal. You must realize that money is getting harder and harder to get. It will be so until after the war. That being the case, it is necessary for us to think of what will have to be done to bridge over the difficulty. Let me remind you, Mr. Chairman, that as a nation, although we may have the same troubles there is a very hopeful sign in the future that we are more united than ever. An opinion that I express personally, and on my own responsibility, is that owing to new conditions, property as property will lose some of its importance. Not so many years ago in Eastern Canada every man had to own property in order to be anything in the community. I think to-day the man who toils, the man who uses his brain to do something in the world is the man. One of the great troubles that we have to face, is that from now on we will have to secure our best men and best women for municipal functions. Why should it not be the privilege appreciated by all to serve as Mayor and as Aldermen. I have said women as well as men. In some parts of Canada there is a discussion going on as to whether equal franchise should be granted. Nobody has any time to waste on this problem. Rightly or wrongly, we have to admit that there cannot be any difference of success. Women as well as men must be elected.

Much has been said along the line of economy. The avoidance of waste and extravagance is essential. Owing to the enormous expenditure in connection with the war, and possibly owing to the increase of the debt of this country, taxation will become enormous, and I think it will be well for us to keep down what is called indirect taxation.

The banking system of this war has stood the test. There is enough wealth throughout the length and breadth of Canada to carry us along. Take the War Loan; it is true that there was an incentive for every one of us to go down in his pocket and give as much as he could. But should not there be some way found whereby the money could be used for the benefit of Municipalities, the Provincial Government and cities. Speaking of bond issues, the expenses connected with them are too large. Middlemen stand at every turn. You have to pay somebody in your own town or city, and you have no choice in the matter. There is only one road to follow; that expense you must meet, otherwise you cannot get the money. It seems to me there is something that requires investigation and remedy. Mr. Lighthall spoke of banks. In the States they have a large number of small banks. In Canada we should have something similar. My conviction is that something has to be done, and the sooner we do it the better for ourselves.

After the war we will have to face problems connected with trade, with transportation, with labor, etc. We have too many commissions working from the centre of the country. I think that the smaller units already constituted should be utilized to bring to the Dominion Government all the information connected with the matters that I am speaking of. When we were discussing trade, free trade would be the better for the Western farmer. Protection would be the request of the Eastern manufacturers. Why should we not try and develop a trade basis for Canada. This can be done if stock is taken, if we know what resources are in the different Municipalities; there are too many wheels within wheels, and in my opinion the time is come when it is the duty of the Dominion Parliament to avail itself of the help of the Municipalities. Now, we in towns and cities in order to meet the requirements of the case, we have to make sure that we are working under proper laws. Some opinions have been expressed as to the necessity of Home Rule. I am very glad to see that these opinions were conflicted. Any person placed in my position will know that when it comes to giving Home Rule to cities, you cannot expect any number to agree on the kind that will be satisfactory. At our last session, ladies and gentlemen, it was stated that the arrears of taxes had to be disposed of. I want to mention that the City of Victoria appears to me to have found the best solution that I know of. It was stated on behalf of that city that on payment of one-tenth of the arrears of taxes, they would give an extension for the balance in nine years. There are two conditions. Firstly: 10 years' extension. Secondly: Payment of current taxes from year to year. Calgary followed in the footsteps of this scheme, and came to the Legislature. We have yet to deal with the case of another city. The plan of Calgary and the plan of Victoria suit me; they are along the same lines. We are giving away for

Red Cross work and for patriotic purposes. Money is being taken from our cities, but if there is any trouble in connection with the arrears of taxes, why should not the country itself come to the rescue of the Municipality and give a guarantee of some kind. If we go on with the present process of forcing the sale of real estate for arrears of taxes the only result will be, in the majority of cases, to depreciate values to an unlimited extent. I would make a fresh start, and it seems to me that this body of practical men should not adjourn this afternoon until they arrive at some views on the lines I suggest.

In conclusion, the cities of the respective Provinces should make up their mind that the time has arrived when, whether you call it Home Rule or not, we should get away from individual charters. **One charter should be sufficient. There is a certain undertaking on the part of all the cities to work for the common good.**

With a general act for each Province we would have to have some expert in each city. We should endeavour to accord a provision to Municipal employees; we should encourage men to make a separate study of Municipal life. I think I know public opinion, and let me tell you that I do not believe that the people at the present time want elections. We have to be content with the next best thing, and the next best thing is to have a certain number of employees who will love their work. Let us have men; let us have women. Let these employees meet in convention once a year, and compare their views.

Convention Banquet.

At the Banquet on Tuesday evening, Mayor Gale, of Vancouver, addressed the Union as follows:—

Closer Relations Between the Western and Eastern Municipalities.

MAYOR GALE (Vancouver):—"Unity and Co-operation" was a doctrine that could be well preached from one end of the continent to the other, from the rock-bound city of Quebec, to beautiful Vancouver—we are Canadians. No matter what Municipal trials and tribulations might be, there was one thing upon which every man and woman in the room could take a united stand—the winning of the war. "I am a Canadian, and I stand for a closer co-operation between the East and the West" said His Worship. Many parts of Canada, it has to be admitted differed on points, but with unity of action and co-operation of spirit, Canada will go far. Unless the great businessmen of Canada reach out for the development of her great potentialities there can be little or nothing to hand down to the generations of Canadians as yet unborn. The one great blot on the commercial life of the Dominion is politics. If Canada falls short of unity it is on account of the many political footballs converted from the great issues of the day as a means to the selfish ends of those who lack the greater vision. It has now become necessary that the problem of each Province should be regarded more in the light of interest to the whole of Canada. I am glad to tell you that the British Columbia Government is making a bounty on the manufacture of iron and steel in this Province—this is a great precedent, pointing the way to other sections of the Dominion towards the development of Canada's natural wealth. Here is a start worthy of emulation and a means towards the reversal of the trade balance of the Dominion. If, then, there was a feeling that there should be a closer relationship between East and West that spirit exists in the West.

MAYOR BOUCHARD, M.L.A., of St. Hyacinthe, P.Q., spoke for the East as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen—When I have been asked to represent the views of the older provinces on the question of the common benefit our cities and the country at large would derive from having closer relations between the eastern and the western municipalities my first impression was one of surprise. I could not see at first glance how it came that our wide-awake secretary had requested the young mayor of a small city to be the spokesman of the section of Canada in which we find our largest, if not our most ambitious, municipalities. There were sure to be many clever men amongst the delegates of the eastern cities, men fully qualified not only by their intimate knowledge of the English language but also by their deep knowledge of the science of municipal economics and by their clear vision of the national needs to address such an important assembly as this, that I never had thought that this honor and at the same time this heavy task would fall on the shoulders of the delegate of a French-Canadian city of only some twelve thousand people.

Our civic union has always shown itself in favour of