

CONVENTION OF NEW BRUNSWICK MUNICIPALITIES (Continued)

ducts of the parish. He intimated that a delegation would appear before the Government and he requested a careful hearing.

Mayor J. D. McKenna, of Sussex, spoke briefly and said that Sussex was well able to take care of itself.

Mayor Fish, of Newcastle, said that in Northumberland the basic industry was lumbering, with fishing as a side line. Though the situation was bad, the men and women were bearing it in a patient and brave manner. He thought that the municipalities could ill afford to expend any more money, owing to heavy bonded indebtedness, which meant high tax rates. The provincial government was in the same way. Now the Federal Government had offered to provide one-third of any assistance rendered to unemployed. This partook of charity and, Mayor Fish said, the people did not want charity. They wanted work. Therefore, he suggested that the Federal Government could best deal with the situation and the best manner was through increased public works construction.

Mr. Armstrong, town manager of Woodstock, said that in his town they had decided on a two-mile street paving programme. Mr. Armstrong inquired regarding cement. Ten years ago, it cost \$1.60 a bag. To-day, it was priced at \$4.12 per bag and consequently, building costs are high. He said that cement could easily be manufactured in the province and suggested that inquiries be made into this proposition.

Mayor McKenna said that in this connection, the Canada Cement Company had taken options in Havelock for the manufacture of cement and he understood that they were willing to expend \$6,000,000 to \$10,000,000.

The Premier threw out the suggestion that the local municipal councils appoint unemployment committees. A provincial committee could be formed, consisting of members of the legislature, representatives from the Trades and Labor Council, the G. W. V. A., the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities and others.

Mayor Johnston, of St. Stephen, and Mayor Mersereau also spoke. The president said that one thing to be considered along with all these suggestions was "how to provide a market for this production." A serious condition is being faced and it was his opinion that a still more serious situation would crop up this winter. It was the future of the manhood of the province that was at stake.

Commissioner Jones then moved that the Premier be asked to bring in a resolution embodying certain suggestions. This was carried.

The following resolution concerning unemployment was carried:

Whereas, conditions of unemployment are likely to exist in this province during the coming winter; and

Whereas, This Union of Municipalities has had representations made to it that these conditions are likely to be more prevalent in certain counties; and

Whereas, After discussion it is deemed advisable to take preliminary steps to relieve any unemployment situation that may develop; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the mayor and council in any city or incorporated town, and the warden of any municipality, where unemployment is likely to become acute be requested to appoint such local unemployment committee to make a survey of conditions and take such action as may be deemed necessary,

Further resolved, That the Premier of the province be requested to appoint a provincial committee representative of all classes, to be called together when deemed necessary and to aid the local authorities as far as possible in carrying out measures of relief. Any expense attached to the functioning of such provincial committee to be borne by the government of the province.

Further resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the wardens of each municipality.

Banquet

The delegates to the convention adjourned to the Victoria Hotel immediately after the meeting in the Pythian Castle, where they sat down to dinner in their honor tendered by the Warden and members of the municipality of the city and county of St. John. Warden Thomas H. Bullock was chairman and toastmaster and sitting with him at the head table on his right was Mayor Schofield and on his left Hance J. Logan, K.C., H. R. McLellan and Hon. Peter J. Veniot.

Officers Elected.

The officers were elected as follows: President, C. C. Campbell, Sackville; vice-president, Warden McPhail, of Perth; secretary, J. King Kelley; executive, J. W. Carter, of Westmorland county; J. A. Reid, mayor of Fredericton; C. E. Fish, mayor of Newcastle; David Johnson, mayor of St. Stephen; Major N. C. McKay, mayor of Campbellton; Thomas Gilliland, warden of Kings county; J. Thornton, commissioner of St. John; Tabor C. Everett, warden of York county; Edgar P. Smith, alderman of Sackville; John T. O'Brien, councillor of Lancaster; Hon. J. E. Michaud, Edmundston.

FOREST FIRES

The forest fires in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia this year have been in the great majority of cases humanly set. Few were caused by malevolence, but the effect on the public purse is not made easier to bear because of that. Of the thousands of dollars of public money expended by these provinces for fire fighting, of the millions of dollars in timber and other property, not to speak of the sacrifice of several lives, the greater part would have been wholly unnecessary if fishermen, campers, and settlers chose to observe common sense precautions with fire in wooded districts.

The Canadian Forestry Association points out that of the series of huge conflagrations in the forests of Eastern Canada this year, practically all commenced without legitimate excuse, in direct defiance to the fire laws and the interests of the public. Lightning has caused a number of this year's forest fires but ninety per cent. of the loss is attributable to such classes as settlers, fishermen and campers. The camp fire which the user fails to extinguish is a formidable enemy and the cigarette and match thrown down on the inflammable "floor" of the forest take an enormous annual toll.