

Union of Canadian Municipalities

Municipal Railway

The city of Toronto and other municipalities interested are anxious to secure the construction of an electric line from Toronto through Uxbridge to Port Perry, and after securing the assistance of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, proceeded to Ottawa to interview the Government and ask for a grant of \$6,500 per mile.

The road will be about 70 miles long, so that the grant requested would be \$455,000; while the total cost is estimated at \$7,500,000. The usual grant is \$3,200 per mile where the construction averages \$15,000 per mile; but in this case the cost will be \$25,000 per mile.

Those forming the deputation were: Mayor Hocken; Controllers Foster, McCarthy, and Church; Aldermen Rowland, Wanless, Wickett, Maybee, Robbins, Walton, Spence, May, Rawlinson, Burgess, Meredith, McBride, Riding, and Anderson; Commissioner of Works Harris; Assistant City Clerk Summers, of Toronto.

W. D. Lighthall, K.C., Hon. Secretary Union of Canadian Municipalities.

W. Smalley, Reeve; D. Morgan, Dep. Reeve, and H. Cook, delegate of Uxbridge Township.

J. Blanchard, Reeve, and W. O. Webster, delegate, of Scott Township.

R. McIntyre, Reeve, and W. Dobson, Clerk, of Reach Township.

W. W. Sparks, Reeve; E. B. Hoover, Dep. Reeve; W. Barnes, Treasurer; and R. R. Mowbray, Councillor, of Pickering Township.

L. Parish, Ex-Warden, Ontario County; W. H. Harris, Solicitor, and G. Gerow, Reeve, of Port Perry.

A. F. Wilson, Councillor; Capt. H. S. Adams, President; A. Wideman, Councillor; R. J. Corson, delegate; T. Willis, delegate; C. H. Stiver, Clerk; A. Somerfeldt, Councillor, and W. M. Smith, Councillor, of Markham Township.

Dr. Dales, President Board of Trade; J. Ratcliffe, T. Billinger and J. Heisie, Councillors, of Stouffville.

J. T. Stewart, Councillor and W. H. Patterson, Ex-Dep. Reeve, of Scarboro Township.

E. N. Sinclair, M.P.P., for South Ontario.

At the preliminary meeting Mayor Hocken requested Controller McCarthy to take the chair.

The Chairman explained the object of the meeting. Mr. Wilson, of Markham Township, who had acted as secretary of the movement, spoke for the municipalities interested, and outlined a line of action in making the request of the Government, and referring specially to examples, such as the Quebec Railway, Light Company line, which got a bonus from the Dominion Government when a provincial line, and practically a municipal one; another was the Port Dover line; another the Guelph Junction; another the Oshawa line. Others were mentioned; also it was analogous to a good roads movement, and an assistance to agriculture. Quebec Province has had \$5,000,000 from the Dominion for railways.

The arrangements for speakers were:—Mayor Hocken for Toronto; Controller McCarthy, as chairman, and Councillor Wilson, as secretary of the delegation; Mr. H. Cook, Mr. H. Harris, Mr. Mowbray, Mr. Stewart and W. D. Lighthall, K.C., Hon. Secretary U.C.M., for the outside municipalities.

The points to be raised were then discussed.

The speakers then met to arrange the speeches.

The meeting then adjourned to 12.15 at the Commons Lobby.

The delegation met Rt. Hon. R. L. Borden, Premier, Hon. Frank Cochrane, Minister of Railways and Canals, and Col. Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia.

After full discussion, the Premier asked for a statement in writing, and promised an early consideration.

Another Provincial Union

The Executive of the Union of Canadian Municipalities has decided upon the formation of a Provincial Union for the Province of Quebec, to be affiliated with the parent Union as are all the others. Accordingly, invitations have been sent out to the municipal councils asking them to send delegates to Montreal on March 18th, when a meeting will be held in the City Hall, at which Mayor Lavallee, President of the Union, will preside. Mr. Talbot M. Papineau, B.C.L., is secretary, pro-tem, his address being 51 Canada Life Building, Montreal.

Up to this time, the good work in the Province of Quebec has been carried on by the Federal Union, but it is felt that the time has arrived for a Provincial Union to be formed.

Municipal Ownership Succeeds

Municipal ownership of public utilities in Edmonton resulted in a net surplus of more than \$60,000 during the twelve months ended October 31, 1912, according to the annual report of City Auditor Richardson, submitted to the council at its last meeting. The report shows the city has assets valued at \$15,982,205, the assets in cash totalling \$642,095. There was a net deficit of \$10,033, due to over expenditures. There is \$2,021,162 in unexpended debenture funds on hand, against which there is an allowance of \$600,000 for the city's share of street-paving and sewer construction. Debentures authorized and unsold amount to \$1,267,260. The principal surpluses for the year are given as follows: Electric light and power, \$85,656.75; power house, \$13,311.60; telephone department, \$4,324.63. The deficits, largely as the result of over-expenditures for construction and betterment, are: Street Railway, \$32,549; water department, \$3,064; stores and works department, \$8,618.

The Criminal Code.

The Chief Constables' Association appeared by a delegation before the Minister of Justice, Hon. C. J. Doherty, to ask for certain amendments to the Criminal Code, as follows:—

To restrict the right to appeal in the cases of disorderly houses;

Better provisions to follow up the White Slave Traffic;

More latitude in issuing warrants for gambling houses;

Better provisions for punishing wife deserter, with power of deporting the fugitive husband.

The delegation was composed of Col. Percy Sherwood, C.M.G., Commissioner of the Dominion Police; Chief Constable Campeau, Montreal; and Deputy Chief Constable Stark, of Toronto, who is Hon. Sec. Treasurer of the Association.