

The Union of Canadian Municipalities

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The Annual Convention, August 21, 22, 23

TO ALL MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

The annual convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, which will be held August 21, 22, 23, in Montreal, and to which we have already sent you an invitation, will be the most important in the history of the Union, and will mark an epoch in the civic life of the Dominion, for the reason that the municipalities of Canada are to-day face to face with problems, the seriousness of which can only be gauged by their magnitude. The problem of finance (borrowing, taxation, assessment, accounting)—the problem of responsibility of the municipal council in this war—the problem of public works, streets, etc.—are each of vital interest to every municipality. There is also the problem of municipal responsibility in Canada's preparedness, which must be studied and action taken almost at once if the municipal councils are to rise to their opportunities and responsibility.

These, and other problems, can only be met by free discussion between municipality and municipality on common ground. For this purpose the Union would strongly urge the Councils to send representatives to the Montreal convention, at which papers on the following live questions will be presented by the most authoritative speakers, and ample time given for free discussion.

Topics and Papers for the Programme, 1916.

Municipal Responsibility in Canada's Preparedness.

- (a)—Returned Soldiers:—Employment, Soldiers' Homes, Hospitals, Memorials.
- (b)—The Patriotic Fund:—Federal, or Provincial, or Municipal Tax?
- (c)—Immigration:—Rural Clubs, People's Forums.

(d)—Public Employment Offices.

(e)—Encouragement to Industries.

Municipal Finance.

Municipal Accounting.

How Best to Introduce Modern Systems of Municipal Work.

Municipal Assessment.

Hydro-Electric Railway System of Ontario.

Montreal Electrical Situation.

Forms of Municipal Government.

(a)—Aldermen and Committees.

(b)—Controllers and Council.

(c)—Commission only.

(d)—Manager.

(e)—The Ideal Form of Civic Government and Administration.

Provincial Government Municipal Boards.

The Town Planning Outlook.

Good Roads Movement, and its Influence on Urban Municipalities.

City Bill Board Advertising.

Proportional Representation.

Teaching of Civic Government in Public Schools.

Daylight Saving.

A complete programme will be mailed later.

Yours Faithfully,

W. D. LIGHTHALL,

Hon. Sec.-Treas., U. C. M.

The Daylight Saving Question

The Daylight Saving question having advanced from a theoretical position to a question of the day, open for legitimate discussion as to whether it is practical or not in Canada—in view of its being actually introduced in Great Britain—it is desirable that municipal opinions as to the advantage, or not, of its introduction, be collected. Consequently the Union of Canadian Municipalities will be glad to receive the opinion of municipal men generally on any aspect of the question. The subject will also be placed on the programme of the forthcoming annual convention at Montreal.

W. D. LIGHTHALL,

Hon. Sec.-Treas.