

PAVING INSPECTORS.

The other day we saw the following item in the report of a certain American city:

"Our paving inspectors informed us that a large amount of paving work (concrete) had been carried out satisfactorily by contractors who had kept to the letter of the law in regard to the specifications. Despite this assurance it was found that, within a year's time, forty per cent. of the pavement of some blocks, to one hundred per cent. of the area of other blocks, had to be re-surfaced. This demonstrates just how much reliance can be placed on the average work of municipal paving inspectors."

On the face, it hardly seems possible that there were men receiving salaries for work for which they were either negligent or incapable. But on enquiry we find that such is the fact even in Canada, though, we believe that in most cases it is because of incapacity. This is proven because in the smaller municipalities, where the engineers are their own inspectors, the concrete pavement is comparatively of a much firmer character than in the large cities, where many of the inspectors have no more idea of the relative values of cements and their proper mixing, than the man in the street. There is no form of pavement that better lends itself to fraud than concrete, and to our mind, where the paving is let out to private contractors, the only really safe assurance to municipalities to get what they pay for is to keep part of the payment back for at least twelve months, or if this be considered too drastic, a guarantee be required. In private buildings such a guarantee is given and we don't see why a public body should not demand the same.

CONVENTION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES.

The annual meeting of Nova Scotia municipalities was held this year at Pictou, August 25-27, under the presidency of Deputy Warden J. W. McKay, of Pictou. Over eighty delegates listened to addresses of welcome from Warden Thompson, of Pictou County; Mayor Grant, of New Glasgow; Mayor Primrose, of Pictou; Mayor Macdonald, of Stellarton; Mayor Strickland, of Trenton, and Mayor Munro, of Westville, and replies from Mayor Fuller, of Yarmouth; Councillor Shepley, of Amherst, and Solicitor R. H. Butts, M. P. P., of Sydney Mines.

One of the features of the meeting was an address from Sir Frederick Fraser, of the School for the Blind, Halifax.

ALBERTA MUNICIPAL CONVENTION.

The Executive of the Union of Alberta Municipalities has decided on October 20th and 21st, as the dates of the annual Convention of the Union for the year 1915. This year's Convention will be held at Bassano, and from the interest already manifested by the various municipalities involved, promises to be, not only very largely attended, but exceedingly interesting and instructive. The programme has not yet been definitely framed, but will likely follow along the lines of last year's Convention in dealing with the financial problems that have had to be faced by practically every city, town and village in the Province, owing to the changed conditions respecting valuations, assessments, sub-divisions, etc., that have arisen during the past two years. The Mayors of the four principal cities, of Calgary, Edmonton, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge (the latter of whom, Mayor Hardie, is President of the Union) have already signified their intentions of being present, and the Executive is now bending every endeavour to secure the presence of delegates from every urban municipality that it is possible to get. Among the attractions of attending this Convention, apart from purely municipal matters, will be an opportunity of viewing the famous Horseshoe Dam erected near the town by the Canadian Pacific Railway, in connection with their irrigation scheme, and which is the largest undertaking of its kind on the American continent.

NEW SECRETARY TREASURER OF MAISON-NEUVE.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of M. G. Ecrement, for many years secretary-treasurer of Maisonneuve, P.Q. Mr. Ecrement, who had been ill for some time, was one of the best known municipal men in Quebec. He was not only a faithful servant of the city, but was behind many movements for the uplifting of the community. His successor, Mr. Joseph Hinton, has been in the service of Maisonneuve for over twenty years, and is well qualified for the position, which he deserves.

MUNICIPAL LIFE IN INDIA.

We give below part of a letter to this Journal from the Editor of the "Local Self-Government Gazette," Madras, India, which goes to show the benefit of a Union to the municipalities of this country. The extract speaks for itself:—

"There are about 67 municipalities in the Madras Presidency, and there is the 'Madras Corporation' in the Presidency Town. The former are governed by the Madras District Municipalities Act and the latter by the Madras City Municipality Act. No such institution as a Union of Municipalities exists in this or other Provinces. At the instance of the Government a Conference of the Chairmen of the municipalities was held in January last. The object of the Conference was to discuss municipal questions generally, but the Conference could not be said to have been a success."

CONVENTION OF UNION OF B. C. MUNICIPALITIES.

The annual convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities was held September 23-24 at Chilliwack, too late for a report to be used in this issue of the Journal. We have arranged for a full report of the proceedings to be published in our next (November) issue.

UNION OF NEW BRUNSWICK MUNICIPALITIES.

The tenth annual convention of the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities was held in Fredericton during the week of August 23, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. K. Kelley, of St. John. The note that dominated the conference was that of optimism, in spite of the war. It is very evident, too, that the municipalities of New Brunswick are determined to have no distress from unemployment this coming winter, if energetic means to meet the problem now can relieve it.

NEW OFFICERS OF CANADIAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION.

At the closing meeting of the Canadian Public Health Association which was held last month in Toronto, the following officers were elected: Dr. C. J. O. Hastings, of Toronto, president; Dr. P. H. Bryce, of Ottawa, honorary president; Dr. Hutchinson, vice-president; Dr. Geo. B. Porter, treasurer, and Dr. O. C. J. Withrow, secretary.

The following provincial vice-presidents were elected: Ontario, Dr. F. A. Dallyn; Manitoba, Dr. Douglas; Saskatchewan, Dr. McMillan; Alberta, Dr. Revell; British Columbia, Dr. Underhill; Nova Scotia, Dr. Hall; New Brunswick, Dr. Warwick; Prince Edward Island, Dr. Johnston. The next convention will be held in Quebec.

BRANDON MAYOR SUCCEEDS TO LEGISLATURE CLERKSHIP.

J. W. Fleming, former mayor of Brandon, has been appointed clerk of the legislative assembly of Manitoba, in place of Major Corelli, who resigned to go to the front. Mr. Fleming's appointment took effect at the end of September.