



The late Hon. John S. Hall

Again we have to chronicle the loss of an active worker and official in the ranks of the Union. The Hon. John S. Hall, secretary of the Union of Alberta Municipalities, has passed away after an active and honourable public life. Mr. Hall served as Treasurer of the Province of Quebec, but had to remove to a milder climate, and went West. Settling in Calgary, his experience soon gained for him a seat in the City Council, for which he has lately acted as solicitor.

Ex Mayor Dyke

All our readers, whether personally acquainted with him or not, will deeply regret the sudden and serious illness of Mr. Joshua Dyke, Ex-Mayor of Fort William, Ont., and join in the sincere hope that he may be speedily restored to his full health and activity. Mr. Dyke's active interest in the U. C. M. did not cool when he retired from the mayoralty of Fort William, and so dropped out of active politics. He has been an attendant at all the Conventions, where his gift of speaking, and his friendliness have made him both respected and liked. We know that all our readers will unite in wishing Mr. Dyke a speedy and complete recovery.

Public Ownership at Brockville, Ont.

For the past 8 years the City of Brockville, Ont., has owned the gas and electric plants, and the statement issued by the Commissioners, sent us by City Clerk Dewey, is both interesting and reassuring.

Let it be said at once that the figures include the full expenses, including interest on debentures, debentures paid, and depreciation (after the second year). Further that the price of gas for lighting which was \$2.00 for the first 4 years, was then reduced to \$1.50, to \$1.25, and finally to \$1.12½; gas for fuel being also reduced from \$1.25 to \$1.12½, while meter rents have been abolished. And that electricity has been reduced from 20c. per K. W. hour, net, to 10c. Which shows that cheap prices have been the object rather than heavy profits.

The totals show that for six years out of the eight, there have been *profits* aggregating \$13,405; while the *losses*, in 1901-2 and 1902-3, were only \$3,427; thus the whole eight years show a *net profit* of \$9,977, and this after the reductions mentioned!

How can the opponents of municipal ownership meet a statement such as this?

Reports

Will every municipal official who gets out an annual report be good enough to send in a copy? Questions often arise about taxes, valuation, public utilities, and the many other phases of municipal work, and we want to have the information as complete as possible.

Harbour Frontage

The value of publicly owned frontage on a harbour is shown by the offer of the Federal Government to undertake improvements in the St. John, N. B., harbour, if the City and C. P. Ry. will give to the Government certain property on the water front. This is, of course, practically buying the property, and proves once more that all water frontage in every port should be owned and controlled by the public.

Fair Competition

The action of the Quebec City Board of Trade in trying to prevent the breaking of the ice bridge or jam, at Cap Rouge, is decidedly unfriendly to the sister city of Montreal. For it is this same jam that remains long after the river elsewhere is open, and thus retards the opening of navigation at Montreal. While every city should endeavor to secure the best means of helping its business, it should never try to derive any benefit by injuring a sister city. Every city should realize that the success of others adds to the general prosperity of all Canada, and should not descend to injuring a rival.

Success of Orillia, Ont.

Municipal ownership in Orillia, Ont., again shows a successful year. The electric light plant last year showed a profit of \$10,000, after meeting all charges. This has gone to reduce the taxes, and the prices of light have been reduced, on stores from 28 to 18 cents a month; houses, from 20 to 18 cents; for a 24 hour service. Even with the lower figures, a surplus of \$1,000 is expected. Under private ownership the rate was 35 cents per lamp.

Approves Uniform Accounts

Copy of a Resolution passed by the city of North Vancouver, B. C., sent in by City Clerk, Thomas Shepherd: "RESOLVED:—That the Council of the City of North Vancouver, B. C., doth hereby express its general approval of the movement instituted by the Union of Canadian Municipalities to urge upon the Dominion and Provincial Governments the preparation of a system of Uniform Municipal Accounting, applicable to all Municipalities, believing that such a system would be of great advantage to the Dominion as a whole."

A Viaduct for Toronto

Toronto is at last to be freed from the intolerable state of affairs caused by the railway tracks along the lake shore. This is one of those complicated questions which has grown up to an absolutely vicious condition from a small and excusable beginning. In the early days, the few tracks and light traffic caused little annoyance to the then small city. But for several years the conditions were so bad that every visitor wondered how the citizens put up with it. Even the large cities in the States, where life is less rigidly safeguarded, are doing away with all level crossings, and enormous sums are being spent to elevate the tracks.