

Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities

OFFICERS, 1912-1913

President:—A. D. GUNN, Mayor, Sydney.

Vice-President:—F.W.W. DOANE, City Engineer, Halifax. Secretary-Treasurer:—ARTHUR ROBERTS, Town Solicitor, Bridgewater.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

ALDERMAN R. V. HARRIS, Halifax.

MAYOR G. W. STUART, Truro.

MAYOR J. J. KINLEY, Lunenburg.

H. L. DENNISON, Town Clerk, Digby.

W. K. DIMOCK, Municipal Clerk,

West Hants.

WARDEN J. W. MAC KAY, Pictou.

Auditor:—W. W. FOSTER, City Auditor, Halifax.

D. J. MACLEOD, Municipal Clerk, Amherst.

PARKER ARCHIBALD, County Clerk and

Treasurer, Halifax.

WARDEN A. S. MACMILLAN, Antigonish.

Seventh Annual Convention,

Antigonish

OFFICIAL REPORT

The President, Mr. A. S. MacMillan, Warden of Antigonish County, presided.

Mayor D. MacIsaac, Mayor of Antigonish, welcomed the delegates, Mayor Stuart, Truro; and Mayor Gunn, Sydney, replying.

The Report of the Executive

The Report of the Executive was considered clause by clause:

1. More members have been brought in, North Sydney, Oxford, Stellarton and Trenton, making a total of 50, of which 33 are cities and towns, and 17 are counties.

2. The Executive has held meetings, at the first of which the Government gave a courteous hearing.

3. Resolutions from the 1911 Convention:—

The Government has:— (a) accepted the recommendation ordering assessors to classify real estate; (b.) refused to permit land to be sold for unpaid taxes after two years; (c) may allow the "optional assessment act" to be reintroduced at next session; (d) has introduced part of the changes asked; (e) is evidently favourably inclined to uniform municipal statistics and Government inspection of municipal accounts, and it is reported that the provincial auditor is looking into the question; (f) while the "Torren's" system of land transfer is now optional, it was suggested that it might be gradually made compulsory, and without any cost.

4. The Government has admitted the propriety of the "Municipalities Amendment" insuring municipal control, in all Bills, and has further passed a clause compelling any one "seeking legislation affecting private and corporate rights," to "furnish evidence that due notice has been given of such proposed legislation to the municipality, corporation or private individuals affected by such legislation."

5. Certain Acts were passed by the Legislature on the lines of municipal progress, notably the "Tenement House," and the "Town Planning" Acts. Others regulating the giving of bonuses; for establishing Municipal Sanatoriums; permitting towns to advertize industrial opportunities; limiting municipal debts; giving wider powers of incorporation and amending the "Board of Public Utilities commissioners."

6. The Federal Bill "Respecting the Pollution of Navigable Waters" was opposed by the Union of Canadian Municipalities, this Union lending its influence. On this clause, Mr. Doane pointed out the value of Municipal Union when it was necessary to ask

the Federal Government for something which concerned every municipality, large and small.

7. The increased rates at the Hospital for the Insane were discussed, but the management pleaded the great increase in prices for everything.

8. The committee on "Standard Town By-Laws" reported that their work had proved very laborious, but was nearly finished.

9. To increase the income of the Union it was suggested that the schedule be amended so as to have the City of Halifax pay in proportion to its population.

10. Last year's proceedings were published in the Official Organ and distributed to all delegates. This year, the Government has undertaken the cost of publication in pamphlet form.

11. Mr. F.W.W. Doane was appointed as delegate to the Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities at Windsor.

Mr. F. W. W. Doane presented the treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$67.41, and moved that as a small recognition of the secretary's admirable work, fifty dollars be voted to him. Carried.

The secretary read the report of his visit as delegate to the Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities at Quebec, 1911.

Committee on Resolutions

The following were added to the Executive, to form the Committee on Resolutions: Councillor Hood, Yarmouth; County Clerk Archibald, Halifax; Councillor Hewson, Amherst; and Town Clerk Ferguson, Colchester.

Mr. J. H. Winfield, manager of the Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company, read a paper on

Nova Scotia Public Utilities Commission

describing the difficulty which occurs in what are naturally businesses which should be monopolies, and which is being met by these commissions. The State of Wisconsin has led in this respect; its commission investigating every complaint, both as to quality and price, all calculations as to the latter being based upon the actual value of the plant, and not the amount of shares issued. "With complete freedom from political interference, and a Commission composed of men of weight and ability who will give a fair and unbiassed judgement on matters presented to them, there would appear to be no reason why the problem of public utilities should not be solved." With regard to Nova Scotia, although very good, it would seem fair that as the commission can fix the rates, they should have the power to prevent any charters being granted which would cause unfair competition.