

THE CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

City of Montreal and
United States \$1.25
Canada, Great Britain
and Countries in
Postal Union \$1.00

Published Monthly by

The Canadian Municipal Journal Co., Limited

HARRY BRAGG

President

FREDERICK WRIGHT

Editor

All communications to be made to Canadian Municipal
Journal

CORISTINE BUILDING, MONTREAL

Telephone Main 4362.

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Official Organ of the Union of Canadian Municipalities

"Municipal from cover to cover"

Circulates in every city, town and village

VOL. XIII.

MAY, 1917

NO. 5

CONTENTS.

Government Telephones	154
Our Preparedness	154
Good Roads Convention	155
Earning Power of a Municipal Tramway	155
Long and Short Ballots	155
High Cost of Living (Mrs. Henderson)	156
Affairs in British Columbia (Jack Loutet)	157
Civic Affairs in Manitoba	158
Civic Affairs in Alberta	159
Government Telephones in Manitoba (W. D. Lighthall)	160
Vital and Municipal Statistics	161

Alderman L. Boyd.	161
Municipal Accounting	162
Municipal Savings Bank	164
Contributing to Society	165
Oxy-Acetylene Welding	166
Risks of Street Cleaning	167
Municipal Taxes (John Perrie)	168
Research Bureau and the Council	169
Noval Plan for Financing Roads	172
Uniform Municipal Statistic	170
Paving Economy	174

PRESIDENT OF U. C. M. BECOMES CHAIRMAN OF GRAIN COMMISSION.

We congratulate Alderman Leslie Boyd, K.C., of Montreal, and President of the Union of Canadian Municipalities on his recent appointment to the Chairmanship of the Grain Commission of Canada in succession to Professor McGill. Mr. Boyd goes to his new sphere of activity with a large knowledge of men and events which will stand him in good stead in dealing with the many problems that effect the grain trade — problems which require not only a legal training but tact and in this the new Commissioner is specially qualified.

Mr. Boyd is not the first president of the Union of Canadian Municipalities to succeed to a responsible public office. Six of his predecessors are to-day occupying public positions of trust. Sir Adam Beck, of Hydro-Electric fame, was president of the Union in 1904 when he was also mayor of London and Mr. Justice Chisholm, of the Nova Scotia High Court, occupied the presidency in 1910 while mayor of Halifax. The Deputy Chairman of the Railway Commission (Mr. D'Arcy Scott) was president in 1905 when mayor of Ottawa; Mr. H. Laporte, now of the Imperial Munitions Board is an ex-president and ex-mayor of Montreal, and so is Mr. L. A. Lapointe, now a member of parliament, who for years was leader of the city council of Montreal. One of the most successful presidents of the Union was Mr. Sanford Evans in 1909 when mayor of Winnipeg. Mr. Evans is now Chairman of the Georgian Bay Commission.

Mr. Boyd is succeeded in the presidency of the Union of Canadian Municipalities by Dr. R. W. Stevenson, Mayor of London (Ont.), the first Vice-President.

A LESSON FROM CAPETOWN.

We recently received the annual report of the Corporation of the City of Capetown, South Africa. We might term it an annual delight for as in previous years the report is a record of activities that would hardly be considered municipal in Canada, though why, we know not for this Journal has always maintained that the functions of a municipal council do not begin and end in the administration of the corporation departments. There is the broader conception of the social life of the community and its responsibility to its neighbours and the nation that at times seem to be lost sight of in Canada, and so we would commend the reading of the Capetown report. The Mayor's address might have been a national appeal so broad is its outlook yet it does not lose sight of the municipal business at home. Department duties are relegated to their proper place — efficiently but secondary. In the presentation of a Sword of Honour to General Botha — the Dutch Premier of South Africa — on his conquest of German West Africa the City Council bound together in closer bonds the two ruling peoples of South Africa — Dutch and British — and in the memorials to the late Captain Scott, of Antarctic fame, and Nurse Edith Cavell the heroine of Belgium and in the observance of "France's National Day" as a tribute to a great Ally, and the public receptions to the gallant Australian and New Zealand contingents who were returning home wounded, the municipal council of Capetown not only took their proper place as the fathers of the people but lived up to that larger national responsibility which we again suggest could be well followed in our Canadian municipalities.