

## A Municipal Union for Quebec

Plans for a union of municipalities for the Province of Quebec were made and passed at a representative meeting of mayors of the Province called by the Editor of the Canadian Municipal Journal and held in Montreal on September 18th.

Ald. J. P. Dixon, representing the Mayor of Montreal, occupied the chair, at the lunch that preceded the conference, and later presided over the discussion that took place. Among those present that took part were Messrs. P. A. Seguin, M.P., mayor of L'Assomption; P. W. McLagan, mayor of Westmont; J. A. A. Leclair, mayor of Verdun; R. Prieur, mayor of Pointe aux Trembles; E. T. Sampson, city clerk of Outremont; E. Cartier, mayor of Pointe Claire; J. P. Lalonde, acting-mayor of Grand'Mere; A. Normand, acting mayor of Victoriaville; Alex. Thurber, mayor of Longueuil; P. Contant, acting-mayor of Iberville; Alfred Larocque, mayor of St. Zotique; J. E. Rheault, M.L.A., mayor of D'Israeli; Ald. Lambert, acting-mayor of Hull; C. E. D'Artois, mayor of Farnham; J. A. Legault, mayor of St. Jerome; Frederick Wright, editor of the Canadian Municipal Journal; H. Bragg, of the Canadian Municipal Journal; Frederick Lodd, (Federal Housing Commission), H. J. Ross, L.L.A., etc.

After the lunch Mr. Omer Chaput, acting secretary, read letters from several representatives who were unable to attend the meeting. Among these was Mr. Oscar Morin, K.C., deputy minister of municipal affairs, whose letter wished the organizers a fruitful meeting, and expressed the hope that it would culminate in the founding of a vigorous union worthy of the Province of Quebec. Mayor Lavigne of Quebec, the mayor of Fraserville, Mr. Elz. Levesque, mayor of Chicoutimi, and the mayor of St. Agathe also wrote expressing regrets that they could not attend, and endorsing the aim of the meeting.

So that some action may be taken towards forming and building up a municipal union worthy of this Province of Quebec the following suggestion may be helpful:—

### SUGGESTIONS.

That a union of municipalities of the Province be formed for the purpose of promoting the best interests of municipal Quebec on all questions pertaining to municipal government and administration by the following means.

- 1st.—By harmonizing and combining all the municipal forces of the Province.
- 2nd.—By seeking and spreading the best knowledge and latest information on municipal matters through Conventions, University Extension Lectures, a Bureau of Information, Publications of proceedings of meetings, resolutions, etc., books, papers and periodicals bearing on the subjects of municipal and government affairs.
- 3rd.—By the guidance and improvement of Legislation, both of the Dominion and Province, upon municipal questions generally and in particular by securing, through united action, the proper protection for individual municipalities, and municipal interests as a whole, against legislative enactments, or other encroachments of corporations and others.
- 4th.—By the establishment of a central consultation bureau under the charge of Legal, Engineering, Financial and Accounting experts whose opinions and advice will be at the free disposal of each and every member of the Union.

So that such an union may be of a permanent and continuous character it is suggested that it be incorporated with nine directors consisting of a President, and two Vice-Presidents who will be elected annually, and six trustees, two of which will retire each year. The trustees to be the best municipal men in the Province irrespective of their positions.

As it is desirous to get the proposal union under weigh without delay Mr. Wright suggested that the gentlemen present form themselves into a committee for the purpose of drafting a constitution to be presented to, and preparing a programme for, a two days convention of the municipal men of the Province. The suggestion being that the convention be held in Montreal during the week previous to the opening of the Provincial Legislature.

Mr. Harry Bragg took up the question of Provincial Unions of Municipalities, stating that every Province, except Prince Edward Island and Quebec, had good, active Unions. In the former, as there were only very few municipalities, and the Government looked after the rest of the Province, there was no need for a Union.

The Province of Quebec now led Canada in having the latest, and the most complete Department of Municipal Affairs, having adopted the best ideas of the two older ones, those of Saskatchewan and Alberta; and, to be up-to-date, Quebec should also have a Union of its Municipalities, in order to secure that co-operation with the Government that would result in good for all concerned.

So far had the Unions proved successful that in Saskatchewan and Alberta, there were two Unions, one for the rural, and the other for the Urban Municipalities.

Speaking of his experiences at various Conventions of these Unions, Mr. Bragg emphasized the value they had proved to the Governments, in discussing various phases of municipal work among themselves, before approaching the Government for alterations in the laws, and in other ways.

He urged their value in combatting attempts to encroach on the rights of municipalities, and showed how concerted action was powerful and beneficial.

He concluded by giving in brief the change in the attitude of the late Sir Richard McBride, Premier of British Columbia, who was at first opposed to the creation of a Municipal Union in his Province, after having the real value of such a Union put before him.

In conclusion, he urged the desirability of forming the Executive of both elective and permanent officials, as in this way a more permanent body would be secured.

A discussion took place in which the following gentlemen took part:—Mayors MacLagan, Prieur, Thurber, J. E. Rheault, M. L. A., P. A. Seguin, M. P., C. E. D'Artois, A. Cartier, A. A. Leclair, A. Larocque, Aldermen Tho. Lambert, J. P. Lalonde, Messrs. Harry Bragg, H. J. Ross, E. T. Sampson, after which the following resolution, proposed by Mayor Leclair and seconded and supported by Mayors Thurber and Prieur was unanimously adopted by the meeting.

"That this meeting of municipal executives of the Province of Quebec, being desirous that a municipal union be formed for the Province without delay, resolve that the delegates present form themselves into a committee for the purpose of drafting a constitution to be laid before a convention of municipal executives to be called during the week previous to the opening of the Provincial Legislature;

"That the said convention be held in the city of Montreal, and that a program be prepared and proper arrangements be made to make the convention a success;

"That Mr. Omer Chaput be asked to act as secretary of the committee."

The Secretary was instructed to prepare the draft of a constitution based on the scheme submitted by Mr. Wright and submit same by mail to each member, who in turn will add his suggestions, the whole to be discussed at a special meeting of the committee, previous to the general convention.