

Report of the Honorary Secretary

W. D. LIGHTHALL, K.C., Ex-Mayor of Westmount.

The past two years have been anxious times for Canadian municipal authorities. Also active times in war movements for some of them, only the smallest and most backward have been unstirred. Last summer the Union of Canadian Municipalities judged it unwise to hold the usual annual convention, and substituted a special Executive Committee meeting. Even this year, when the convention was called, it was considered impracticable to hold it at Victoria, B.C., as intended, and a central city was chosen. It is hoped that Montreal will be found instructive and interesting municipally as well as in so many other things appertaining to our largest city and chief port; which is also the greatest grain port of the world except Liverpool. Here, besides the central city, are that interesting residential city Westmount, an example of the City Manager plan, Outremont, also a foremost residential city, Verdun and Maisonneuve, progressive workmen's cities; and several other municipalities worth studying; great water and filtration systems; and the vastest centres of electrical power in the world.

Last summer, at the Executive meeting at Niagara Falls, little was effectively discussed besides current matters of management of the Union, and the unsatisfactory war outlook. Employment troubles hung over the West and the larger centres, and statistics of labor portended a black winter, calling for every care on the part of the municipalities, and requiring united aid from the federal and provincial governments and the large employers of labor. We were proposing among other things a special federal commission to unite all efforts. The first light came in September from Lord Shaughnessy, as President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who was able in September to advise the government that a black outlook was no longer to be feared. We all know the reason,—Providence had intervened to give our West a phenomenal crop, a double harvest, one so large and bountiful that it was termed a "freak crop." It came at exactly the right time, and lifted a tremendous load from those municipal authorities who had been dreading what seemed the worst conditions. To that kind interposition we largely owe it that to-day we meet in a truly prosperous Canada.

There remain, however, some serious special war questions for us to study. Opportunity has been given on our programme to examine into some of them,—such as employment and finance after the war.

We are able also to take up again some of those regular subjects of practical municipal interest with which we have been accustomed to deal—municipal management, engineering and finance. We have the guidance of speakers noted for the widest experience and profoundest judgment. But the voice and opinion of every delegate is valuable to have.

A review, so complete of legislation affecting municipalities is contained in the report of our own Fred Cook, Ex-Mayor of Ottawa, that it would be idle to go over these matters again in this Report. Suffice it to say that it seemed like a revival of the past history of the Union to attend the Parliamentary Railway Committee again and give support to the Hydro-Radial Union of Ontario, a form of that municipal movement for electric freedom which sprang into existence out of our earliest operations, and it is one of the greatest and most benign developments of our time. With Sir Adam Beck and its able secretary, Mr. Hannigan, it cannot fail of further success. Its plans were opposed by the Canadian Northern in the Toronto, Niagara and Western Railway bill.

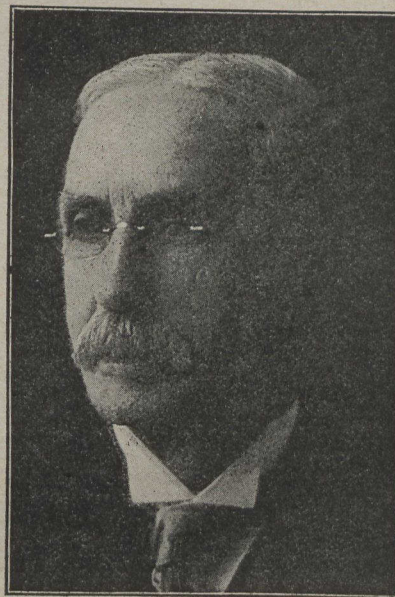
We were also glad to serve the municipalities of British Columbia in the Western Canada Telephone Bill, which contained large and objectionable powers, but was reduced to those of an ordinary Company.

The large falling off in charter bills for new enterprises which Mr. Cook notes has had the good effect of lessening the number of fights to protect municipal rights for the present. After the war there will doubtless be a rush of charter sharks and speculation for such things again.

In closing this report let me mention a name now long known to us as one who has rendered very great service to the municipalities of Canada—Mr. George S. Wilson. If you can find some means to adequately honor and reward him it would be an act of well-merited justice.

Gentlemen in authority, we meet at a notable epoch.

We meet when we are at war, and in the greatest of possible wars. We have the most serious duties facing us. Let us realize their seriousness, and consequently the opportunity given us to work as true men and patriots, earnest and zealous to serve the common good.



FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, FOR THE YEAR 1915.

G. S. WILSON.

Balance on hand January 1st	\$ 553.10
Bank Interest	5.29
Fees from Municipalities	5,020.00
	\$5,578.39
Expenditure	\$5,272.98
Balance	305.41
	\$5,578.39

I would call your attention to the comparatively small amount of our revenue, compared with the great benefits that our municipalities have received, and regret to report that several of our principal cities have not contributed for a year or two past. True enough, these are strenuous times for our municipalities, but I think they should not neglect the Union of Canadian Municipalities, their best friend.

I wish to acknowledge the splendid assistance that our President, and members of the Executive, have so cheerfully given in the routine work of the Union: I sometimes thought that our President, Mayor Church, would kick at the amount of correspondence I pressed upon him.

As your Secretary, I am in daily touch with our Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Lighthall, in fact, sometimes twice in one day, to lay before him the correspondence received, and getting the legal information that is so often asked for.

As usual, our good friend, Mr. H. J. Ross, Auditor of the Union, has given his time—free from all charge—to the supervision and auditing of our cash book.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

Montreal, May 10th, 1916.

The President, Officers and Members, Union of Canadian Municipalities.

Dear Sirs:—

I beg to report having audited the books of your Assistant Secretary, Mr. G. S. Wilson, and have this day certified as correct a Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ending December 31st, 1915.

Yours truly, H. J. ROSS, L. I. A.
Auditor.