

# THE CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL

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## THE CONVENTION

The sixteenth convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities is now over and as we foretold in our last issue the meeting was the best in the history of the union—at least as far as the quality of the papers and addresses presented went. It is of true, as some of the delegates suggested, that there was a little too much meat to digest for one convention, but these are strenuous times and the virile Canadian mind of those who attended will have assimilated by now the essence of what was said at the five sessions. But the resolution calling for papers to be submitted two months before the next convention, so that copies can be distributed through this journal we assume—to the Councils at least one month ahead, is a wise one for the reason that delegates—and the councils who send them—will be able to get a line on the trend of the subjects, which then can be discussed in the light of actual experience. As far as this journal is concerned we will do all we can to put the idea into practice in getting the papers out on time. The difficulty will be in getting the speakers to send in their papers. Be that as it may we feel certain that not one word of the many valuable papers presented will have been lost or wasted, as will be evidenced in the report of the proceedings which will be published in our October issue.

### Municipal Finance.

For practical purposes we might say the convention took up three main subjects—municipal finance, forms or systems of civic government and municipal preparedness.

The problem of municipal finance is no new one

—it is always with us—but it has become so much more complicated to-day than what it was yesterday that experts are now necessary to explain the different phases that come under the general heading of civic finance, and the executive of the Union were fortunate in securing the services of such men as Thomas Bradshaw, E. T. Sampson and Thomas Ryan, each one a master of his subject. The subjects—the sinking fund, civic accounting and municipal assessment—too, had the advantage of being treated in a very practical manner. We regret Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, who was to take up the general subject of Municipal Finance was unable to be present, but his recent visit to England had taken up so much of his time that he found it impossible to prepare a paper in time for the convention.

### Different Forms of Municipal Government.

The session given to civic government—its different forms—was worth any man's time and money to attend. Each system had its exponent, and as each speaker based his address on his own experience, the audience must have been very much in a dilemma as to which was the best form of civic government for Canada. The conclusion forced on our mind was that the success or failure of municipal government in this country depended more on the personnel than the form or system, but that the tendency was toward the professional. Whether this elimination of the amateur for the professional in our civic control is going to solve the problem of municipal government in Canada is doubtful. We have for some time been making an investigation of this subject and we hope to give the results in an early number of this journal.