to all interests to make their representations to the Committee.

An important amendment to the Railway Act was made by Parliament at the recent session. It provides that if a railway company makes a change in the location of a terminal or divisional point, the company shall compensate its employees as the Board of Railway Commissioners deems proper, for financial loss caused to them by the change of residence necessitated thereby. This amendment is calculated to remove a long standing grievance.

A Bill of great importance to municipalities and to electric railway companies "respecting the conveyance of letter carriers on electric railways" was introduced by Hon. L. P. Pelletier, Postmaster General. It provided for the carrying of letter carriers by electric railways on terms approved by the Postmaster General.

The following is a list of municipally owned electric railways in Canada.:

Berlin and Waterloo Street Ry.; Calgary Municipal Ry.; Edmonton Radial Ry.; Guelph Radial Ry.; Lethbridge Municipal Ry.; Regina Municipal Ry.; St. Thomas Street Ry.; Saskatoon Municipal Ry.; Brandon Municipal Ry.; Port Arthur and Fort William Electric Ry. and Toronto Civic Car Lines.

As soon as the Bill was introduced into Parliament, the attention of the municipalities likely to be affected was drawn to it, and steps taken to represent to the Postmaster General that the measure should not apply to municipally owned railways. At a conference of railway representatives specially convened in Ottawa, the opinion was expressed that municipal electric railways would not be affected by the Bill, inasmuch as the word "company" is used in clause 2 of the measure. However, section 1 specifically says "every electric railway in Canada," so that it must be obvious that municipally owned electric railways are included. This view is confirmed by the brief discussion which took place in the House of Commons on May 31, when the Bill was withdrawn.

The Bill originated as the result of a dispute between the Post Office Department and the Montreal Street Railway Company. The letter carriers of Montreal were transported by the street railway for years for the sum of $8,000 per annum, but this year, according to Mr. Pelletier's statement in the House, the company asked $20,000 a year. After the Bill had been introduced negotiations took place between the Department and the Street Railway Company and a tentative agreement was made for $15,000 for this year, equivalent to $50 per head. Rates paid in other cities of Canada are as follows:

Halifax, 3 cents per trip; Hamilton, $41 per annum; Kingston, $25 ; Winnipeg, $26.50 ; Quebec, $42.50 ; Toronto, $34; Ottawa, $75; Regina, $25; Edmonton, $25; Calgary, $25; Vancouver, $30, and Victoria, $30.

In withdrawing the Bill on May 31, the Postmaster General explained that one of the purposes had been secured, namely an arrangement with the Company in Montreal

It is obvious that the Postmaster Generalis determined to secure a fair rate for the carriage of letter carriers on electric railways. Speaking purely personally, but with an intimate knowledge of conditions at the capital, it seems to me that the wisest course the Union of Canadian Municipalities could pursue would be assist the Postmaster General in reaching a friendly understanding with all the electric railways in Canada, rather than to place in his hands a lever which might ultimately lead to the fixing of much lower rates for the carriage of the letter carriers than some companies are now demanding.

Possibly the Postmaster General might be induced to amend his Bill so that the fixing of the rates for letter carriers could be left with the Board of Railway Commissioners, but under any circumstances it seems to me that the efforts of this Union might well be directed towards bringing about an amicable arrangement between the Department and the companies.

Upon motion of Mayor Rathwell, Lachine, Que., seconded by City Engineer Deane, Halifax, N. S., this was received and adopted.

Then followed the Report of the Provincial Unions:

Union of Manitoba Municipalities

Presented by R. FORKE, Secretary

This Union is today a live organization and doing valuable service for good municipal government and the advancement of municipal interest generally.

The Union possesses the confidence of the people, and the Government, and members of our Legislature have always been ready to give careful consideration and attention to any recommendation coming from this Union.

It can be said that no important changes have been made to the Municipal Act, without consultation with the Union in convention assembled.

Mention might be made of the "Good Roads Act". The "Audit Act," "Remuneration of Heads of Councils," and Amendments to the "Real Property Act," as an evidence of work done before the last session of the Legislature.

A most successful Convention was held in the City of Winnipeg last November, a very large number of delegates representing most of the Municipal Councils in the Province were present. The proceedings were orderly and dignified throughout the whole convention.

The Hon. Mr. Coldwell, Municipal Commissioner, was present, and in conveying his good wishes, expressed his appreciation of the services rendered his Department by the Union.

A number of instructive and valuable papers were read by gentlemen, experts in their particular line of work.

The Manitoba Municipal Union appreciates the value of affiliation with the Union of Canadian Municipalities and extends to this Convention a hearty greeting, and a sincere desire that the "Union" may continue the good work of making the Municipal Government of Canada something worthy to be proud of.

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Presented by H. BOSE, Hon. Sec.-Treas.

On behalf of this Union, I beg to state that our Convention last October at Revelstoke was attended by more delegates than any previous one.

The work of our Union during the last twelve months has resulted in having a "Local Improvement Act" passed last session, and the Royal Municipal Commission has drafted a new "Municipal Act" which is in print, and will be discussed at our next Convention and then passed next session of our Legislature.

As to the report of the work of the Royal Municipal Commission, I cannot do better than refer to page 210, June number of the "Canadian Municipal Journal," which is attached hereto.