

B.C. CONVENTION.—Contd from Page 386.

viser of the Union and the Inspector of Municipalities—to the crowding out of consideration of the larger questions and aspects of municipal work from the discussion of which so much more interest and inspiration would be derived.”—Referred to Finance Committee.

Point Grey.

“1. That all city, urban or suburban municipal corporations hereafter incorporated shall within one year of incorporation cause to be prepared, by competent authorities, a town plan which shall show the direction and location and width of streets and lanes within the area incorporated, and such suggested plan for land subdivision, showing industrial areas, residential areas, retail areas, location for public buildings, etc., as shall appear to be in the best interests of the community, and plan shall be approved by the Inspector of Municipalities.

“2. That in such municipalities a valuation shall be made of all land by competent valuers within six months of incorporation.

“3. That such municipal corporations shall be empowered to compel owners of land to subdivide, according to such plan when land is subdivided.”

By Mayor Stewart, seconded by Reeve Bridgman: That this resolution be referred to Executive and Officers of Point Grey.—Carried.

“4. That all municipal corporations shall, in addition to power already provided, be given authority to refuse subdivision plans if it can be shown:

- (1) That such plan is not in the public interest.
- (2) That the topography of the area or true nature of soil is not suitable for subdivision.
- (3) That the area of the lots is unsuitable to the locality or situation of the land proposed to be subdivided.
- (4) That such subdivisions would entail upon the corporation unwarranted expenditures.
- (5) That before the final passage of any subdivision plan, all streets and lanes therein shall be cleared, graded and surfaced to the satisfaction of the council or such official as may be appointed by the council for that purpose.

The above amendments were approved by resolution at a meeting of the council on August 9, 1915.

By Mayor Stewart, seconded by Coun. Cunliffe: That this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

Friday 9.30 a.m.

Convention opened by the singing of the National Anthem.

NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

The selection of the place of meeting of the next Convention was decided, in favour of Vernon. Mayor Smythe, of Duncan, extended an invitation to the Convention to meet in that city next year, but the Convention this year being held at the Coast, as is the custom, the next Convention will be held in the upper country. Under these circumstances, Mayor Smythe withdrew his invitation, in favour of Vernon.

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER.**Unemployment Question.**

“This question will doubtless be opened for general discussion without leaving it to any particular municipality to introduce the matter, and we suggest that the resolutions on the subject passed at the recent special meeting of the Union of Canadian Municipalities (published in the current number of the Canadian Municipal Journal) be taken up and considered with a view to endorsement or further suggestions.”

By Mayor Taylor, seconded by Reeve Bridgman:

“That this Association, in full session assembled, is in hearty sympathy with the Union of Canadian Municipalities in its propaganda to bring together in conference with Federal, Provincial and Civic authorities, together with the employers and employees, as a first step toward a solution of the unemployment situation which threatens to be serious this coming winter, and that the Executive be authorized to help in the work so far as lies in the power of the Association.” Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers for 1916 resulted as follows:—

Mayor Stewart, of Victoria, President.

Mayor Smith, of Vernon, Vice-President.

Ex-Reeve H. Bose, of Surrey, Secretary-Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Mayor Grey, of New Westminster.

Mayor Barber, of Chilliwack

Reeve Fraser of Burnaby.

Reeve Bridgman, of North Vancouver.

Reeve McGregor, of Saanich.

Mayor Crawford, of Kamloops.

Alderman Byrne, of Vancouver.

Adjourned for luncheon.

FRIDAY, 2 P.M.

Meeting called to order by the President.

TAX SALES.

“The delegates of this council will present a resolution as follows: That this council place itself on record as opposed to the proposal recently made to the Government that the time for redemption of properties sold for delinquent taxes be extended to two years from the date of sale.

“The council present this resolution because they consider the interests of the municipality as a whole and of the owners who regularly pay their taxes should be considered in preference to the interests of the individuals who are delinquent in the performance of their obligations.”

By Reeve Bridgman, seconded by Alderman Bell: That this resolution be referred to the Special Finance Committee. Carried.

EXEMPTION OF RAILWAY COMPANIES FROM TAXATION.

“That this Union urge upon the Government that in granting to railway companies any extension of time for completion of their undertakings as set out in their agreements with the Government, it be made a condition of such extension of time that the railways shall pay taxes upon all lands which are held by them in organized municipalities and are not actually in use by them as a part of their railway system.

“The Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company hold in this municipality fifty acres of valuable waterfront property adjoining their tracks which they are admittedly not using at the present time. The form of the exemption clause in the agreement, Schedule 2, Geo. V., Chap. 34, is as follows:

“The company, and its capital stock, franchises, income, tolls, and all properties and assets which form part of or are used in connection with the operation of its railway, shall, until the first day of July, A.D. 1926, be exempt from all taxation whatsoever, or however imposed, by, with, or under the authority of the Legislature of the Province of British Columbia, or by any municipal or school organization in the province.”

“The interpretation of ‘railway’ under the Railways Act is as follows:

“‘Railway’ means any railway which the company is authorized to construct and operate, and shall include all branches, sidings, stations, depots, wharves, rolling stock, equipment, works, property, real or personal, and works connected therewith, and also every railway bridge, tunnel, or other structure connected with the railway and undertaking of the company.

“The joint effect of these clauses is to exempt this land from taxation as forming part of their railway, and the municipality has recently had a decision of the court to this effect given against it.

“Different decisions have been obtained by other municipalities and it is a question just how far these decisions were based on different circumstances. However, the whole matter needs placing on an equitable footing, in order that the municipalities may not be deprived of large amounts of revenue without any coincident benefits in the shape of industries or improvements.”

By Mayor Stewart, seconded by Reeve Bridgman: That this resolution be recommended. Carried.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACT.

“This Act should be entirely redrafted. It was originally drawn and passed in 1913 with the intention that every work of local improvement would be completed and the cost ascertained before such cost was raised by loan.

“Section 40 was amended in 1914 so as to provide that