

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

At the opening of the Wednesday evening session of the convention the matter of appointing three representatives to the National Industrial Conference in response to an invitation of the Honourable Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labour was discussed, and Mr. Frederick Wright, editor of the Canadian Municipal Journal, outlined the representations he had made to the Government to have municipal Canada a party in the conference.

The three following delegates were elected to represent the Union at the Industrial Conference: Mayor Bouchard (St. Hyacinthe, P.Q.); Arthur Roberts, K.C. (Bridgewater, N.S.); and Ald. Grant (Edmonton).

On motion of Mr. W. D. Lighthall, K.C., and Ald. David T. Kyle, Longueuil, Que., it was resolved "that the U.C.M. respectfully request the Dominion Government to appoint a permanent official to attend to the relations constantly arising between that Government and municipalities."

On the motion of Mr. C. W. McCrea, Sault Ste. Marie, and Mr. T. W. Fletcher, reeve, Point Grey, Vancouver, the resolution presented by Mr. Francis King, K.C., requesting that the Dominion Government avail itself of the facilities for transshipping grain at Kingston, was passed unanimously.

Profiteers were assailed in the following resolution:—
"Whereas the investigations of the Committee of the House of Commons has adequately proven the popular allegation that profiteering existed in the handling of the necessities of life;

"Be it resolved that the Union of Canadian Municipalities, speaking for the citizens of their communities, urge that the greatest efforts be made to solve this pressing question of the H. C. of L. without delay in view of the great hardships resulting to the common people and the bitter and dangerous feelings in evidence towards classes and individuals thought to be responsible for the same;

"That the machinery provided for investigation by municipalities is cumbersome and unworkable and further that in the opinion of this convention such investigations should be at the cost of the federal government and

Further that the government should see that the new Commerce Court or some other body properly constituted and with an adequate supply of funds should properly investigate the cost and profits in the case of all necessities of life without any delay and where profiteering is found adequate means should be provided for the prosecution and punishment of those responsible.

Discussing the resolution, Controller John Murphy of Halifax asserted that there should be absolute sincerity in discussing the question and in proposing remedies. The people of the East, he declared, were sick of investigations because no action was taken and he was of the opinion that the convention should express its regrets that something had not been done. He asked that the words "while desiring to record their earnest appreciation of the measure of attention being paid by Parliament to the problems resulting from the present high cost of living" be removed from the resolution as he believed that the government had not gone the limit.

Hon. A. G. McKay wanted something definite to be done by the government and he therefore moved, seconded by Mayor Harold Fisher, that the following amendment be tacked on: "Further this convention demands that the statements recently made by Dr. McFall, if true, be followed by immediate action on the part of the government."—Carried.

A resolution asking that the Criminal Code be amended to provide penalties for those who deliberately wasted foodstuffs in order to enhance the price was referred to the committee on resolutions.

The following resolution was then passed unanimously as follows:—"Resolved that the constitution of the Union be amended by inserting at the end of the clause relating to the membership, the following: "Municipal officers, individuals and associations interested in municipal affairs may, by resolution of the executive, become associate members, but shall not be entitled to vote nor be eligible to any office."

The meeting adjourned at 11.20 p.m. and the committee on resolutions went into session, sitting till 1.30 a.m.

Mr. Clinton Rogers Woodruff (Sec. National Municipal League) then delivered an address on "The Necessity of Municipal Union" which appears on page 326.

THURSDAY MORNING.

On Thursday morning, Mayor Harold Fisher of Ottawa tendered to Mr. Clinton Rogers Woodruff the thanks of the Union for his scholarly and practical address of the previous evening. The vote was unanimously carried with applause.

A resolution proposed by Ald. John Murphy of Halifax that "the Convention condemn the practice of loading down our public utilities with worthless securities in the nature of common or bonus stock, and recommend that securities of such utilities be confined to first mortgage bonds on which attractive interest should be allowed" was referred to the executive.

On the recommendation of the committee on resolutions it was agreed that all resolutions affecting cold storage and waste of foodstuffs be referred to the executive to frame a resolution to lay before the Government.

A resolution that "the U.C.M. respectfully petition the Provincial Governments recommending that a uniform system of municipal accounting be established and adopted by all municipalities" was adopted. This was in accord with the long settled policy of the Union.

A resolution proposed by Mayor Elson of St. Catharines, urging greater production, was carried. It was: "Whereas statistics show that during the past few years the withdrawal of several millions of men from ordinary pursuits has seriously reduced the production of life's necessities,

"And whereas the drift of thousands of men from rural to urban communities has also minimized the volume of farm and dairy products,

"And whereas the tendency of this age seems to be to satiate the appetite for luxuries regardless of cost,

"Be it resolved that this convention urge public persons in all responsible positions, the press and other moulders of opinion to try to educate citizens to produce more of every needed commodity in order to overcome a critical economic defect, also to promote the spirit of frugality and thrift."

The Constitution was amended by inserting the following for Section 8:

"Sec. 8.—The officers of the Union shall be a president, first, second and third vice-presidents (so as to provide representation for the Central, Maritime and Western provinces) and five members of the executive committee for each province, three of whom shall be elected annually at the annual convention and two of whom shall be the president and secretary, for the time being, of each Provincial Union and a secretary-treasurer to be elected at the annual convention."

A resolution was also carried condemning the practice of some municipalities of subsidizing industries by grants of land, money or exemption from taxes or otherwise, claiming that money levied by taxes should be applied for the administration of municipal affairs, the convention resolving that it was against "any law allowing municipal councils to divert municipal funds or credit from their natural ends in subsidizing industries and it is further resolved that any provincial governments where this practice has not already been stopped should be prayed to enact the necessary restrictive laws to that end as soon as possible and that copies of this resolution should be addressed to the proper official of all the provincial governments of Canada.

It was also agreed that the executive should have power to make such rearrangement of paid officers of the Union as it may think advisable with due regard to the finances and it was decided to hold the annual convention alternately in the West and the East, the division line being the boundary between Ontario and Manitoba.

RECONSTRUCTION.

Mr. Frederick Wright, editor of the Canadian Municipal Journal, referred briefly to the reorganization scheme which he had placed before the members through the official organ. He said that the benefits of the union had been able to accomplish with the small income. He remarked that the sole aim was to build up municipal Canada and that through the Municipal Journal they had been doing their utmost to attain that end. He pointed out that new conditions were constantly arising and he expressed displeasure that the meeting had not seen fit to take some action upon his proposals.

Mayor Fisher, as chairman of the resolutions committee, stated that there was no feeling against the proposals and that although they were not adopted he felt confident that some if not all of the suggestions would be accepted at an opportune time. Moreover, he believed that the suggestions had been very beneficial.