

## CONVENTION OF NEW BRUNSWICK MUNICIPALITIES (Continued)

In the discussion of various subjects which come before you, let me express the hope that such will be discussed from the broad standpoint eliminating that aspect of local conditions. Bearing in mind that any legislation placed upon the statute books must be placed there with the view of its effect upon the whole province and not with the single eye to any particular interest or community.

### Has Confidence in New Brunswick.

While there is nothing alarming or gloomy in the ultimate outlook, we are nevertheless in a period of readjustment when sound finance and careful administration is necessary. We have confidence in New Brunswick, in its people, and in its resources. Lumber is not going out of style. The demand and the requirements for houses and buildings is world-wide. Fuel in abundance will still be required. The development of a somewhat ambitious hydro-electric power policy (many years overdue), will place us in a position to offer inducements comparing favorably with other provinces which have shown expansion and development in this way in the past. Situated as we are in a healthy moderate climate both summer and winter, near a sea-port open all the year round, with steamship lines running to all the mar-

kets of the world, I believe our situation offers inducements equal to any other port of the continent. With these things before us we can reasonably hope that slowly but surely conditions will improve and that we can look forward with confidence to a marked improvement.

### The Delegates.

The following delegates registered: W. M. Campbell, West St. John; J. King Kelley, St. John; Gesner A. Taylor, Dorchester; J. W. Carter, Salisbury; Thomas Murray, Sackville; Edgar P. Smith, Sackville; J. Y. Mersereau, Chatham; C. E. Fish, Newcastle; W. J. Cassidy, Chatham; Dr. Simard, Edmundston; Thomas Emecrette, Edmundston; J. E. Michaud, Edmundston; T. H. Bullock, St. John; F. P. Hunter, St. Stephen; John T. O'Brien, Lancaster; T. A. Goggin, Albert; C. L. Peck, Hopewell Cape; H. R. McLellan, St. John; J. C. Dalzell, East St. John; E. A. Schofield, St. John; Thomas Gilliland, Hammond River; G. O. D. Otty, Hampton; J. E. T. Lindon, Newcastle; C. C. Campbell, Sackville; R. F. Armstrong, Woodstock; D. A. Adamson, Gagetown; J. W. Vroom, St. Stephen; J. A. Fowlie, Chatham; Elwood Allen, Marysville; Tabor C. Everett, R. R. No. 6, Fredericton; Robert A. Graham, Prince William; F. A. Taylor, Hoyte Station; James O'Donnell, Dipper Harbor.

## Public Health

Hon. Dr. W. F. Roberts, Minister of Health for New Brunswick, was the principal speaker at one of the sessions of the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities; part of his address being as follows:

"If there was one service greater and more important than another in the interests of the people it was the health service. In 1910 Dr. Murray MacLaren had outlined a programme of health when the union was meeting in St. Stephen. In 1917 and 1918 a selection of methods for promoting good health had been made. Great interest had been manifested in our legislation by outside provinces. Vital statistics were completed in a systematic manner. We had as good a selection of legislation covering vital statistics as any province in Canada. It was a huge system of book-keeping and was paramount to taking stock in a commercial enterprise. We must know the history of the people. An outbreak of disease was promptly attended to by competent officials. There had been many epidemics of smallpox in this province. Legislation must be launched carefully and well nurtured and fostered. He was dissatisfied with the lack of progress on one hand and pleased with the progress on the other.

"There were officials in every county to look after vital statistics. In small places the collectors knew about what went on and could report on it, but the majesty of the law was back of them if it was needed. To-day the Government was receiving ninety-five per cent. of the statistics.

"Not the least important item on the health programme was medical school inspection. The matter was introduced in August, 1919. He would always be grateful for the co-operation of the medical men of New Brunswick, without whom the Government would have been helpless. One doctor had charge of

twenty-eight schools for which he received \$150, a mere pittance. The signature of the doctor to a child's health card meant much. During the last year it had been decided to make this service more efficient. The boards of various counties would be asked to pool their resources and engage a young man who had just graduated in medical school inspection work. He would be an all-time man and would go to every school and examine carefully every scholar. In this province we built the child to the desk instead of the desk to the child. Too low desks were a great source of spinal trouble. In special cases this man will look after special cases of poor people who send to the office of the provincial board of health.

"It was impossible to get a doctor after regular hours in this city. The older men wanted the young men to do the night work. There should be a city physician to care for those who could not care for themselves.

"At present there was legislation for the prevention of forest fires and the law must be recognized. For every tree the woodsman cuts, the fires take 100. We legislate to protect animals. Let us look after the forests. We think the greatest source of revenue is the logs. The greatest asset is the child. We predicted selection and medical examination of couples before marriage, and then care for the young mother. In time the child would grow into a worthy citizen who would help protect the forests as well as to observe the other laws of the land."

Gesner A. Taylor, of Dorchester, secretary of Westmorland county, said Hon. Dr. Roberts, was slightly in error regarding the collection of vital statistics by county secretaries. This had been done by officials appointed for the purpose. The statistics had been very incomplete. More attention had been