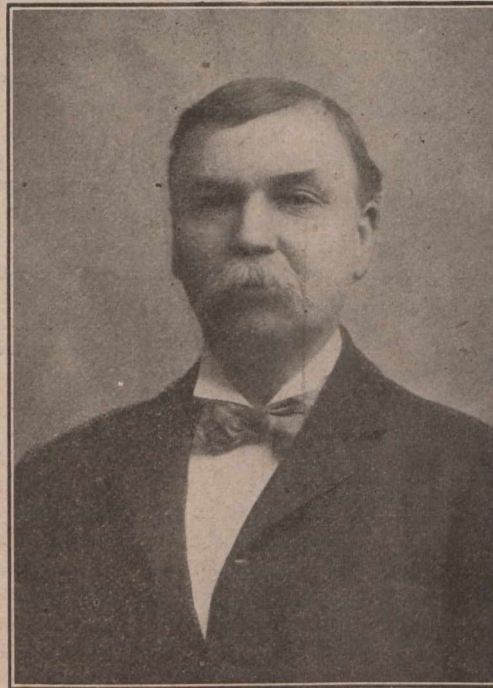


ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION (Continued.)

(Municipal Officers of Ontario)

manent improvements as between the county and the town or city in which a high school is situate. Legislation was also obtained legalizing the payment of fees by municipalities to the Ontario Association, and also payment of the expenses of delegates to attend its meetings. An amendment had been sought to section 606 of The Municipal Act regarding the liability of municipalities for non-repair of highways, the intention being that the municipality should not be liable unless it or some member of the council or officer had notice of the defect. After some opposition, this passed the Municipal Committee of the Legislature, but in the last days of the session in the House it was defeated. The re-introduction of this measure is strongly recommended. For the first time, the Executive retained the services of a solicitor to assist in, and watch the passage of the legislation promoted by the Association. With the limited state of our finances, this could not be done to the fullest extent desired. But even in the limited way in which it was done, the effects were most beneficial. Every effort should be made to increase the membership of the Association in order that its finances might be in a better position to meet the expenses of some one who should not only look after and promote the measures introduced by the Association, but watch closely all measures brought forward which might be detrimental to the interests of the municipalities. At the last annual meeting of the Association two matters were referred to the Executive. One was the question of exemption from taxation. This is a large subject. The Executive has gathered some statistics in connection with it, but is not yet prepared to report, as it is not thought wise to push this until such time as the fullest information possible is secured, and there is a reasonable prospect of securing it. The other matter was the question of a federation of the various Provincial Associations into a Canadian union. At a meeting in Ottawa attended by representatives from Provincial Associations, the proposal passed by your Executive upon which they would recommend this Association to enter into such federation was considered. It provided shortly: That the Canadian union should be composed only of the officers of the various Provincial Associations; that all fees paid by municipalities should be paid direct to the Provincial Associations, and that the financing of the Canadian union should be provided for out of the funds of the Provincial Associations. This apparently was not acceptable to the Canadian union, as they have framed a constitution, namely: That the Canadian union shall be composed as heretofore of representatives from the individual municipalities with the further representations from the Provincial Associations, and that each Provincial Association should contribute 25 per cent. of the gross revenues to the funds of the Canadian union. The Executive cannot see its way clear to recommend the Ontario Association to join the Canadian union on these terms. The President strongly urged upon the meeting the advisability of not asking for legislation unless the delegates were pretty nearly unanimous upon the subject, and especially that no legislation of a freak nature should be applied for. It was exceedingly desirable to present a united front when the Association went to the Legislature on any subject, and only to ask for such changes as were reasonable and

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T. J. STEWART, MAYOR OF HAMILTON.

logical reasons, I think, for upholding the system at present in vogue as more suitable than the writer of the article in question put forth. Hoping this may be of some material benefit, I remain,

Yours very truly,

P. GORMAN.

Eganville, Sept. 12, 1907.



NEIL COOPER

Alderman, London, 1st Vice-President
Ontario Municipal Association.

COMMUNICATIONS (Continued)

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

To the Editor of The Municipal World:

DEAR SIR,—The federal political arena promises something which should interest every lover of good and new legislation; for however much reliance may be placed upon the possible character of popular confidence in the leadership of Mr. R. L. BORDEN, or however little, all realize that the essentiality of the platform which he advocates is, at last, in easy evidence.

For more than eighteen months the question of public ownership has usurped an interest for itself which, in history, is bound to prove unprecedented in the general outcome. Not only will this hold true as respecting popular sentiment in North America, but signs, due to the same original motive, that is centralization, are actively manifesting themselves everywhere as economical conditions shift sufficiently, relatively speaking, of course, in individual cases and countries, to permit of the possible adoption of more open phases of progress, in any direction, in those variously affected communities.

It is just such general evidence that leads us forward. We are firmly and finally, it may be supposed, established in the great and leading conviction that monopoly points to inefficiency, but that good management may never stop short, on the middle of the ladder. And, moreover, we are convinced that what ANDREW CARNEGIE and JOHN D.