

Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1909-1910:

President : A. E. McMAHON, Esq.,
Warden, King's County.
Treasurer : F. W. W. DOANE, Esq., C. E.,
City Engineer, Halifax.

Vice-President : W. A. RICHARDSON, Esq.,
Mayor, Sydney.
Secretary : ARTHUR ROBERTS, Esq.,
Town Solicitor, Bridgewater.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE :

J. A. CHISHOLM, Esq., K. C.,
Mayor, Halifax.
T. S. ROGERS, Esq.,
Town Solicitor, Amherst.

WILLARD KELLY, Esq.,
Mayor, Yarmouth.
FINLAY McDONALD, Esq.,
City Solicitor, Sydney.
JOHN McDOUGALL, Esq.,
County Stipendiary, Halifax.

W. K. MURRAY, Esq.,
Mayor, Truro.
W. K. DIMOCK, Esq.,
Municipal Clerk, West Hants.

Auditor : F. H. BELL, Esq., City Solicitor, Halifax.

Fourth Annual Convention Yarmouth, N.S., 1st and 2nd September, 1909 (Official Report.—*Concluded*).

1st September.—Evening Session.

The Resolution Committee presented the following resolutions:—

Moved by Mayor Richardson, Sydney, seconded by Secretary Doane:—

“That the question of Uniform Municipal Statistical Returns be referred to the incoming Executive, with the recommendation that copies of the report thereon from the Union of Canadian Municipalities be sent to the Clerks of all the Municipalities in the Province with a request for suggestion, and that a report with recommendations be presented to the next Convention.” Carried.

“That the suggestions as outlined in Mr. Bell's paper be endorsed and referred to the incoming Executive.” Carried.

Moved by Recorder Rogers, Amherst, seconded by Warden McMahan, Kings County:—

“That the attention of the Attorney General be called to the unsatisfactory state of the clauses of “The Poor Relief Act” relating to the removal of paupers, and that he be requested to introduce legislation with a view to simplifying and improving the law on this subject.” Carried.

The following letter from Mr. Stewart Jenks, Deputy Attorney General, was read.

Dear Mr. Doane:—

In reference to the matter of proposed by-laws for the towns, it is impossible for me to attend the meeting of the Union as suggested.

I have been doing some work in the preparation of by-laws, particularly on the subject matter of transient traders and licenses, which I find somewhat difficult. I am desirous that this work be done thoroughly. The by-laws, when completed, should be such as, by their merit, will commend themselves to the Recorders of the various towns and municipalities, if we are to expect their general adoption.

I have found the work a much greater task than I anticipated. It seems to me that it will be desirable that some legislation be passed at the next session providing a method by which these by-laws may be adopted by the towns in whole or in part. I would suggest that your Union appoint a committee to act with me in the matter, that we may have the by-laws completed by the end of October or first of November, so as to allow time for

distribution to the Recorders, that we may receive criticisms and suggestions.

There are some matters as to which there is little uniformity in the by-laws of the various towns, in many of which it seems to me that uniformity is desirable. It would be advisable to adopt uniform by-laws, for example, as to the method of taking votes at ratepayers' meetings. In most of the towns these votes, I think, are taken openly by a show of the hands. It seems to me that ballot voting might advantageously be adopted in all. It may be that some of the Recorders have doubts as to the legality of a ballot in such circumstances under the present legislation. I do not think however that there is any real difficulty as to this and if necessary the statute can be amended so as to remove any doubt. There is an English case in the Privy Council which I think settles the legality of ballot voting in such circumstances.

I have discussed the matter of these by-laws somewhat with Mr. MacCoy and he is in possession of my ideas on the subject.

I regret that the absence of the Attorney General from town and other matters make it impossible for me to attend your convention.

Yours faithfully,

Stewart Jenks,

Deputy Attorney General.

The Secretary was instructed to inform him that a By-law Committee had been appointed to act with him in revision of same.

On motion, Solicitors F. H. Bell, Halifax, Arthur Roberts, Bridgewater, T. S. Rogers, Amherst and Finlay McDonald, Sydney, were appointed as the Committee.

Then followed an address on

“The Investment of Sinking Funds.” Mayor Mulhall, Liverpool, N.S.,

who had not prepared a paper, but merely thought to obtain the opinion of the Union on this question. A large number of towns have from time to time issued Debentures for various purposes in connection with Municipal matters. The statute says sinking funds must be placed in a Bank. Municipalities should have the right to invest their sinking funds in securities and not be tied up to placing them in a Bank. He pointed out the decided advantages of such a course being open to Municipalities and urged that this Union ask for