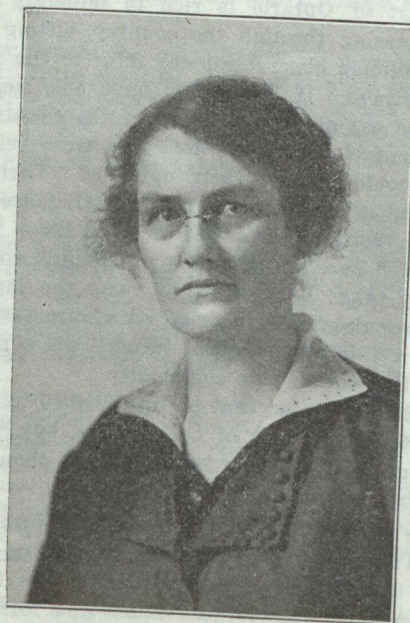


Municipal Government in Canada During 1920

The year just closing has been for municipal Canada a thorough test for good government, inasmuch as it has been the year in which much was expected in the way of city and town improvements with little money to carry them out. Like the individual the cost of local administration has increased two-fold, but unlike the individual the authorities have not been able to use ways and means to increase the income, without strong protest from the citizens themselves. The consequence is that the task of administering our municipalities has been an exceptionally difficult one this year. And yet such has been the determination of and the ingenuity shown by the councils that on the whole they can not only show good balance sheets but improved public works. It may be said even that the municipal administration of Canada for the year 1920 makes a better showing than that of many private corporations considering the lack of opportunity to increase the rates or to borrow on the part of the councils and the opportunities through increased profits of the private corporations. We state this emphatically because the administration of most municipalities has often been compared unfavorably with that of private firms. To a large extent this increased efficiency in municipal administration in Canada is due to the better class of men now entering the municipal service, and the growing tendency on the part of the councils not to interfere with departmental administration, but to leave it to the heads. The results are better service in actual administration and more opportunity for the councils to study and discuss policies for the better government of their respective communities.

If it were possible for any single individual to make a survey of the municipal government in Canada for 1920 he would be surprised at the enormous amount of work now being undertaken by the councils in comparison to the work of but a few years back. He would find, as a result of the war, that a larger responsibility had been thrust upon the local authorities — employment, housing, hygiene, libraries and play grounds, etc. — such as their predecessors never dreamt of, and he would also

find that because of this larger responsibility the local authorities were taking a keener interest in their duties. Community government, whether it be of a city, town, village or rural district, is the most responsible in Canada to-day, and possibly the most successful in spite of all the criticisms made against it, as has been tested this year. Consequently, the position of municipal executive is becoming more and more sought after, and why not? To serve one's neighbours in any capacity is an opportunity that decent citizens desire, but to serve them in a way that can only be done as a member of the local council is an honor worth while, and when it is considered that there are over 30,000 men and women in Canada serving their neighbors as mayors, aldermen or councillors, it is something for the average Canadian to be proud of.



MISS MARTHA A. DICKENSON,
City Clerk of Windsor, Ont.

THE LATE PRESIDENT OF THE ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION.

It is with deep regret that we record the death on November 25 of Mr. Thomas J. Moore, City Manager of Guelph (Ont.), and President of the Ontario Municipal Association, who was accidentally shot while hunting near Sudbury. Mr. Moore was one of those quiet strong men who gave of his best to the betterment of municipal government, not only along ethical lines but along economic lines, as witness his successful management of the City of Guelph, first as City Clerk in 1908 and latterly as City Manager. For many years Mr. Moore was an active member of the Ontario Municipal Association, and when he was elected President

last September it was felt that no man deserved the honor better. Though not so widely known outside his native province as some of his colleagues, those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance knew him as a man deeply versed in the lore of civic affairs who was ever ready to help his colleagues in the solving of their many problems. At the last convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities at Quebec Mr. Moore represented the City of Guelph. By the death of Mr. Moore the City of Guelph has lost an invaluable servant, the Ontario Municipal Association an excellent President and municipal Canada a sterling student and friend.