

## Convention of Municipal Executives of Province of Quebec

At the invitation of the Canadian Municipal Journal a representative gathering of the municipal executives of the Province of Quebec met at the Freeman's Hotel, Montreal, on Wednesday afternoon and evening, August 28, to discuss the new municipal statutes, and, to hear an address on the new Municipal Department from Mr. Oscar Morin, K.C., Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, who also represented the government.

Among those present were the following:

Mr. O. Morin, K.C., Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. J. E. Charpentier, Auditor of the Province.

**Montreal.**—Mayor Martin, Controller Hon. Charles Marcil, and Alderman Col. J. J. Creelman.

**St. Hyacinthe.**—Mayor T. D. Bouchard, M.L.A.; Ald. J. Alvord.

**Farnham.**—Mayor A. E. D'Artois, and Secretary A. E. Lefebvre.

**Drummondville.**—Town Clerk W. A. Woisan, and Treasurer Jos. Marier.

**Ste. Agathe.**—Mayor L. E. Parent.

**Magog.**—Mayor Alfred Angers, and Secretary-Treasurer A. Tourigny.

**St. Jerome.**—Ald. C. E. Marchand, and J. V. Leonard.

**Three Rivers.**—Ald. Ryan.

**Pointe-aux-Trembles.**—Ald. Prieur, and Secretary-Treasurer J. W. Roy.

**Verdun.**—Ald. F. A. Fauteux, and Secretary-Treasurer J. Wishart.

**LaSalle.**—Ald. F. X. Belanger.

**Longueuil.**—Mayor Alex. Thurber, Ald. J. Alf. Gariepy, Secretary-Treasurer J. R. Bourret, and J. I. Lamarre.

**Montreal East.**—Mayor Joseph Versailles, and Secretary-Treasurer J. Erasus.

**Montreal South.**—Mayor Edmond Hardy.

**Lachine.**—Mayor Dr. F. H. Gatiou, Solicitor A. S. Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer Edgar Leduc, and Accountant A. Lejour.

**Greenfield Park.**—Mayor R. S. Chalmers and Secretary-Treasurer E. P. Allright.

**St. Lambert.**—Mayor E. P. Gordon, Ald. Alf. Predergast, J. R. Foster, R. Deschenes, and Secretary-Treasurer J. R. Beatty.

**Ville de Lery.**—Mayor Geo. A. Lapointe.

**Laprairie.**—Mayor Dr. Longtin.

**Montreal West.**—Secretary-Treasurer Chas. J. Fraser.

**Outremont.**—Mayor Beaubien, Treasurer E. T. Sampson, and City Engineer Lees.

**Ville Lessard.**—Ald. F. X. Belanger.

**Lac Tremblant.**—G. S. Wilson.

Also Messrs. Edwin Hanson (Vice-President Canadian Bond Dealers Association); H. J. Ross (Chairman Special Committee of the Union of Canadian Municipalities); Geo. Gonthier (Messrs. Gonthier, St. Cyr and Frigon); M. Tofield (Quebec Savings and Trust Co.); Antoine Lapiere and J. W. Simard (Municipal Bond Corporation) Francis Hankin (Secretary Reconstruction Groups Association); A. P. Frigon and E. A. McNutt (Joint Chairmen, Victory Loan); J. N. Cabana (Cabane Freres); Augusta Angers.

Mr. Frederick Wright (Editor of The Canadian Municipal Journal) as convener, opened the meeting by reading the letter of invitation sent by the Journal to the mayors and officials of the various municipalities of the Province.

"The object of the meeting is to get a better understanding of the Municipal Act of the Province of Quebec, as it applies to each community, and we believe an informal discussion in the light of the experience of local executives and officers will do much to make its meaning clearer."

Mr. Wright: "The invitation speaks for itself and requires no other words from me in explanation of the object for which we are meeting here to-day. All that is left for me is to extend, on behalf of my colleagues of the Canadian Municipal Journal, and myself, a hearty welcome to everyone here, and in particular do I extend a welcome to Mr. Morin, the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, who not only is representing the Government this afternoon, but is making his maiden speech to a Montreal audience. If we did not expect a large response to our invitation we were agreeably disappointed in the many acceptances, and the audience which I see before me is a strong indication that Municipal Quebec is determined to be in the vanguard in civic affairs.

This is a business meeting. We have a great deal to do and a short time to do it in, and while we want everyone who can to add his quota to the discussions, and everyone in this hall to ask questions, particularly of the Deputy Minister, I am sure you will not take it amiss if I suggest that we cut out long speeches and confine ourselves to the matter in hand. What we want, gentlemen, is that when we leave this room to-night each one of us to feel that we have done something towards making this Province of ours better so far as civic affairs are concerned, and I think you all agree with me that the basis of all prosperity lies absolutely in the proper conduct of municipal government.

Mayor Bouchard, M.L.A. (St. Hyacinthe), was elected Chairman of the Meeting, and Mr. Harry Bragg (Canadian Municipal Journal) as secretary.

### PLAN OF MEETING.

**The Chairman:** The Municipal statutes under which the Municipal Department was established and is administered was brought about at the last session of the Provincial Legislature by the passing of three acts as follows:

(8 George V., Chapter 20):

**TITLE**—"An Act to create a department of Municipal Affairs, and to amend therefor the Revised Statutes, 1909; The Revised Statutes, 1888, and the Quebec Municipal Code. (8 George V., Chapter 28):

**TITLE**—"An Act concerning the deposit, in certain cases, of moneys intended for the sinking-funds of municipal and school corporations, and to amend the Revised Statutes, 1909; the Revised Statutes, 1888, and the Quebec Municipal Code in respect thereto."

(8 George V., Chapter 60):

**TITLE**—"An Act to amend the Revised Statutes, 1888; The Revised Statutes, 1909, and the Quebec Municipal Code respecting municipal affairs."

To facilitate our discussions during this afternoon and evening it is suggested that for this afternoon we take up Chapter 20—the Act creating the department of municipal affairs, and Chapter 60, which deals with municipal accounting, limits of municipal indebtedness, and regulations dealing with the manner of which municipal records must be kept.

For the evening session it is suggested that chapter 28 be taken up. . . . This act deals with sinking funds, which because of the responsibility on each of the municipal councils is probably the most important subject to be considered, and which can be better discussed by the delegates in the light of the knowledge that each one will get after discussing Chapter 20 and 60.

Mr. Bragg said that before he proceeded to read the letters sent in response to the invitation, he would take the opportunity of emphasizing the welcome of the Journal to all present, and the hope that the meeting would prove, not only interesting, but helpful. The Journal had always advocated the desirability of establishing a Department of Municipal Affairs in each Province, and was delighted to record this in the Old Province, in which the Ancient Capital was situated. In this, Quebec had followed the example of the two newest Provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta, both having Departments of Municipal Affairs, with a Minister and Deputy Minister, and thus were organized in somewhat the same way as the English Municipal Councils under the Local Government Board. He was glad that Quebec had been the first to follow the good example of the Baby Provinces, for no Province was too old to learn. He was sure that every municipality that desired to be well managed would appreciate the new Department, and congratulated the Government on its enterprise in the matter. Those who knew the peculiar position of the finances of some of the municipalities, would see in the Department a promise of supervision that would prevent carelessness. And in many cases the permanent officials would only be glad to have some controlling body that would help them to carry on their work effectively.

The secretary then read letter expressing interest in the proceedings, sympathy with the calling of the meeting, and assurance of support from the Mayors of Quebec, Hull, Sherbrooke, Pointe Claire, Chicoutimi, Joliette, Rimouski; Alderman Shaw, Alderman Brodeur, Montreal; and E. T. Burgess (Bond Dealers' Association), also a letter from the