

U. C. M. CONVENTION—Continued.

public health administration. The old Board was abolished once and for all, and Public Health was raised to an equality with other public interests. A Department of equality with other public interests.

A department of Health was instituted and its control vested in a Minister of the Crown. It is too soon yet to speak definitely of the result, but even already, good effects are evident on every side. Formerly, no matter within the whole range of public thought was less discussed and less thought of than public health. Now, it has become a "burning" subject throughout the province. It has its advocates and also its detractors, but the ranks of the former are fast filling up, and numbers of the latter are being as rapidly depleted. The present speaker is the one upon whom the mantle of administration of this all important interests has first fallen, and he knows, or should know something of how this novel step has been taken by the people. Only the other day he found it incumbent upon him, upon his acceptance of the regular stipend of a Minister to go back to his constituents for re-election, and although his political opponents searched their ranks carefully for a man to challenge his position by an electoral contest, their search was futile and he re-assured his place in the Legislature without further controversy.

But if New Brunswick has been a pioneer in the matter, already her good example has found followers. Almost the first in the list has been no less a country than Great Britain herself, which has established, within the past twelve months a clear-cut and definite Ministry

of Health. The Dominion Government has followed, haltingly and partially, it is true, but nevertheless, in a way that is bound to result in a Department devoted to Public Health, and to this interest, alone.

I have no time to follow up like movements in other Provinces and States, but they are patent to you all. I have already far exceeded the limits of the eight hundred words allotted to me, but if I were accorded eight hundred thousand that would not be too many to adequately describe "the new and newest things" in Public Health, and their salutary influence upon our country and its people."

Mayor Legault of St. Jerone spoke of what had been done in his municipality by vaccination and strongly endorsed the remarks of the Hon. Dr. Roberts in that connection.

Controller Ramsden of Toronto referred to the importance of public health which was as important as the moral state, adding that no city could spend too much money in that great work.

Dr. Dufresne, Shawinigan Falls; Alderman H. M. Martin, Edmonton; Mr. McCrae, Sault Ste. Marie; Commissioner Bayne, Regina; Mayor Beaubien, Outremont; Mayor Ranger, Lachine, and Mayor Sabourin Hawkesbury, also spoke on this question.

At the close of the meeting Mayor Clark of Edmonton raised the question of alleged discrimination against the harbour of Quebec, calling attention to the fact that the elevators were idle and claiming that this was due to discrimination. No action was taken.

The Convention was adjourned until 8 o'clock p.m.

CITY OF QUEBEC.

J. J. B. CHOUINARD, C.M.G., Litt.D., City Clerk of Quebec.

EVENING SESSION, TUESDAY.

On the resumption of business at 8.30 p.m., Mr. E. T. Sampson, City Clerk and Treasurer of Outremont, P.Q., gave his paper on "Comments and Suggestions upon the Incidence and Principles of Municipal Taxation in Canada" which was published in full in the August issue of this Journal.

The discussion which followed Mr. Sampson's paper was participated in by Mr. J. N. Bayne of Regina, Mr. D. McDonald Reeve Pearson of Point Grey, B.C., Controller J. G. Ramsden of Toronto, and Deputy Minister Lamb of Alberta.

THE CITY OF QUEBEC.

Mr. H. J. J. B. Chouinard, C.M.G., Litt.D., F.R.S.C., Quebec's distinguished City Clerk and litterateur, delivered an intensely interesting address on the subject of the City he loves so well, sketching exhaustively its early history from the arrival of Jacques Cartier in 1535, through the stormy years of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries up to the present time.

Referring to the population of the City the speaker stated that at the death of Champlain the total population of Quebec consisted of 80 souls. To day, three hundred and twelve years after its founding, Quebec appears by the municipal census taken by our evaluators in September, 1919, to have a population of 108,366 souls.

The compilers of the Quebec Directory estimate in May, 1920, the population of Quebec as being 116,850 souls. The division as to languages and origins is, in 1919, as follows:—

French speaking	102,450 souls.
English speaking	12,100 "
Non residents working in city	2,300 "
Municipalities adjoining city (Greater Quebec)	36,000 souls

Total... .. 152,850 "

As to religious belief, the population is divided as follows:

Catholics	107,750 souls
Protestants and other denominations	6,800 "
Non residents working in City	2,300 "

116,850 souls

This total of 116,850 souls does not state the real figure of our population and anticipating upon the results of the census to be taken in 1921, competent authorities estimate that our actual population figures between 116,000 and 120,000.

Quebec enjoys the distinction of being the most populous agglomeration of citizens of French descent outside of France herself, taking into account their proportion in the whole population of the City compared to the other races. And another characteristic of our City is that it is essentially a bi-lingual City, both races being sufficiently conversant in both languages for ordinary intercourse in social or civil life. And we are proud to add that the most cordial relations have always existed and still exist between the varied elements of our population.

May I be permitted to add that as the English Language spoken in Quebec is hardly at variance with the English spoken in England, so is the French spoken here as good as the French spoken in the most reputed localities of old France. There is no such thing here or anywhere in French Canada as the "brogue" or "patois" which has been so much talked about by certain writers who had picked out their French language in "vocabularies" or "tourists guides" of questionable value.

Municipal Organization of the City of Quebec.

Turning to Municipal Organization, the speaker said "Our City was first administered by Samuel de Champlain whom we honour as having been practically the first Mayor of Quebec. After him, the Governor and later on the French Intendants were our civic administrators until 1760.

It is true that in 1663 the citizens of Quebec held a public assembly in which they elected for Mayor one Mr. de Repentigny, whose name survives in several descendants in Montreal. But this popular move was crushed immediately by the Central Authority as being contrary to the absolutism of the day. Again, in 1759 and 1760, we find a French officer, Major Daine, acting as Mayor of Quebec and styling himself so whilst acting as intermediary between the citizens and the Military English Authorities.

After 1775 we find a civic administration in the hands of the Justice of the peace, a respected body of citizens who transact municipal affairs under government tuition.

At last, in 1833, our Parliament granted our City a civic charter which conferred extraordinary powers, some of which are still exclusively possessed by our City.

We had a Mayor first appointed by the Government, later on elected by the people at times elected by the members of the Council, according to the fluctuations of the times.

The question has been agitated lately of abolishing the Council and substituting a body of three or five commissioners elected in a different manner. But public opinion is still adverse to such a change.