

Provincial Unions and Conventions

We congratulate the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities on its successful convention which was held last month in St. John. As this was the first meeting since 1916 its success is all the more creditable to the executive, particularly Mr. J. King Kelley, K.C., the energetic secretary who bore the brunt of the work. The paper and the addresses were all of a high order and the business gotten through—which took a day longer than the scheduled time—showed that a keen interest is being taken in local administration by the councils of the Province. Also last month the Nova Scotia Union held its annual convention, which under the able direction of Mr. Arthur Roberts, the secretary, was quite up to the usual high standard that the conventions of the union set many years ago. They take municipal government in the Maritime Provinces very seriously, and no phase of it is too big or too small to discuss, and, if found to be practicable, acted upon.

In the Province of Quebec the Provincial Union held its convention in the old City of Quebec, the principal feature of which was the discussion of the industrial development of the province, not only as it affects the municipal administration, but the in-

fluence of good local government in the advancement of the local industries. In the Province of Ontario the Municipal Association held its twenty-fifth meeting in Toronto, and Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta also had their conventions, and British Columbia is holding its meeting this month. What with the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan each holding two meetings—one for the urban and the other for the rural municipalities—and the Union of Canadian Municipalities convention at Ottawa, municipal Canada will this year—counting a large sub-convention of the Quebec Union—have held twelve gatherings of municipal men, not a bad record of the advancement of municipal development in Canada. As a matter of fact there is no other country where such a spirit of “get-together” is so real amongst municipal men as in Canada. What is more, there is no department of public service so well served with its own press as is municipal Canada—outside our own two journals, the “Canadian Municipal Journal” and “Le Québec Municipal,” the Province of Ontario is specially served by the “Municipal World” and the three Prairie Provinces by the “Western Municipal News,” each publication in its own way working for the common purpose of building up the civic life of the country.

Cement---In Canada

The manufacture of cement in Canada is a remarkable instance of a demand creating an industry. Previous to 1890 all the cement consumed in the Dominion—amounting to 120,000 barrels per year—was imported. Since that date the yearly consumption of cement has increased until in 1913 it reached 8,913,014 barrels, all of which, with the exception of 3 per cent., was manufactured in Canada itself. Since 1913, because of the war, the consumption has lessened, though in 1920 it began to pick up again when the consumption was 5,837,983 barrels, of which half of one per cent. only was imported. The Canadian cement manufacturers more than kept up with the home demand; they exceeded it to such an extent that to-day the annual capacity of Canada's cement mills is 13,500,000 barrels, or 50 per cent. more than the peak year of 1913, meaning that in Canada there has grown up an industry in cement that not only supplies all the wants of the home market but produces huge quantities for export. What is more this industry has grown to its present size without the aid of protective duties, as instance, the low import duty on cement of 16 per cent. as against 35 per cent. on most other imported manufactured goods. As a matter of fact the Canadian cement industry has attained its impregnable position in this country by efficiency in administration and production.

The Canada Cement Company, which has a combined annual capacity of 11,700,000 barrels in its fifteen plants, or about 90 per cent. of the whole producing capacity, naturally sets the pace in Canada, and so complete is its organization, from the digging of the soft stone to the selling of a single bag of cement, that it can, and does, manufacture and sell cement at prices so low, considering the quality, that even the highly organized American

manufacturers cannot attempt to compete with this company; at least in its home market.

The policy of the Canada Cement Company in making it easy for the small consumer—municipality or individual—to secure, through the local dealers, cement at as low a price as large consumers, is a wise and constructive one, inasmuch as it encourages the use of cement amongst a larger number than would be the case if the prices were graded according to quantities. The municipality or farmer who will use a few barrels of cement to-day will use more to-morrow, for cement is an article that has many uses, and only familiarity with it brings out its many traits.

QUEBEC FESTIVAL

With the title “Quebec Festival” the Canadian Government and the Grand Trunk Railways have got out an exceedingly attractive little booklet. It is well illustrated, with all kinds of views: seashore, city, streets, fine buildings and pretty rivers, old forts and fishing scenes.

The charm of Ancient Quebec is well brought out, and this is a great attraction to the tourist who knows only the modern city, and enthuses over the quaint scenery that is to be found in the quiet little towns and villages in the Old Province.

Practically, the whole of the many places of interest—and there are many—comes into the booklet, both in picture and reading matter, so that anyone by reading it carefully has a very good general idea of what is to be found of interest in the province.

The typographical work is of the best, and the booklet reflects great credit on the advertising department which had the production of the work.