

TENTH ANNUAL MEETING UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES

Opened at Fredericton Yesterday With Good Attendance—President J. King Kelly's Address—Attorney-General Barker Heard in Splendid Address—Resolution Passed Regarding Technical Education in New Brunswick.

Fredericton, Aug. 25.—The Union of New Brunswick Municipalities was in session here in their annual convention today. This year's session is one of the largest that has been held. In the morning the delegates were driven in automobiles to the Governor's home and the Canadian cotton mill at Marysville. The business sessions began this afternoon, with J. King Kelly of St. John, presiding. The addresses of welcome were given by Warden H. A. Smith, and Mayor Mitchell, and these were responded to by Alderman Donald Craghan of New Brunswick and Councillor O'Brien of Lunenburg. President Kelly then gave his annual address and the report of Honorary Secretary J. W. McCready of Fredericton was received. Following this came Hon. J. B. M. Baxter's address, after which A. R. Smith, M. L. A., of Queens Co., gave an excellent address.

President's Address.

The president, J. King Kelly, of St. John, in the course of his address said:

"It is but fitting that I should refer at this time to two men who, having turned their backs on comfort and ease have offered their lives for humanity. We envy the Municipality of York and the City of Fredericton the glory of having as representatives that battle-scarred and weary soldier, Major Percy A. Guthrie and Col. Harry McCleod, ex-Mayor of this city. But we also feel ashamed that we ourselves can find excuses which justify our presence outside of the fighting lines. We who have remained at home must be prepared to make suitable provisions for the mothers, widows, orphans and dependents, those who have made the supreme sacrifice, as well as those who may return from the war."

Let the influence of the Union be against those who complain of taxation because of our part in the war for Mother England and her Dominions beyond the seas.

He who has the means and will not assist is a traitor to his country, and he who takes improper advantage of his country's extreme conditions should be court-martialed and shot. Canada is a mighty big country, but she has no room either for orders for a creature who takes more than is honestly his own or for a creature who may weaken the link between life and death. Referring to an unhappy incident in the Dominion parliament, Canadian spokesmen declared that no guilty man shall escape, and every member of every unit of this Union of New Brunswick Municipalities trusts Sir Robert to keep his pledge.

We deeply regret the irreparable losses to our nation and our Allies in this just war; and when overwhelmed with disastrous news from the front we are sometimes tempted to ask, "Is God dead?" This was a familiar query in the days of that awful fratricidal war of the United States of America and the answer then came back, as it does now, "God is keeping watch above His own."

If the fortunes of war are with us, we must be prepared for a reorganization of our municipal life, and to surrender some of our free and easy methods for discipline and the creation of power for self-preservation.

Since our last meeting there has occurred to call for special action by the executive.

I beg to call your attention to a further recognition of the protection due the municipalities by an amendment to the rules governing the House of Assembly which now provides for service upon the County Secretary by the promotion of any bill intended to be introduced into House of Assembly, which would be affected by promoter legislation. This affords some additional security against sharp practice on the Legislature. As a further guard against improper pressure the rules of the House might be still further amended, by insisting that where a bill affecting municipalities has been substantially amended in committee it should be reprinted and a copy of the original bill and the amendment served on the municipality before the report of the committee is made to the House. Under best possible conditions sneak legislation does unfortunately creep through the House; it is therefore the duty of the Union to keep the closest scrutiny on all bills. With this end in view, I beg to suggest the engagement of a permanent secretary, who should give particular attention to notices of private bills and the passage of private bills through the House and a request be made to the government that such officer be officially recognized.

I am pleased to inform you that the Hon. Attorney General Barker gave instructions to forward me all copies of bills affecting the municipalities during last session of the Legislature. A bill was introduced at the last meeting of our provincial Parliament to amend the Union Act of the City of Saint John. The purpose of this bill, if enacted, was to repeal the amendment to the Union Act which gave the City of Saint John govern-

ment by commission. Without in any manner declaring myself for or against government by commission, it is my opinion that the government of the cities and towns in New Brunswick should all be on the same basis.

An act providing for a standard charter for cities and towns might be introduced independently by the government or as the result of a commission of investigation. Conditions in no city or town New Brunswick are as out of the ordinary as demand special and favored legislation. It is not too late for the government to have prepared a standard charter to meet conditions that may arise, after a vote is taken by the people of the City of Saint John as to the form of government most favored by them.

The City of Saint John at the last session of the Legislature was empowered to appoint a commission of investigation on tax methods. The Mayor and Aldermen of Saint John City under the act have been pleased to appoint a commission of five men, four residing in the City of Saint John and one from this city. It is a matter of congratulation that the City of Saint John was able to secure men capable of carrying out the work undertaken without going beyond the Province of New Brunswick.

The same line of reasoning is applicable to any special tax act for the City of Saint John, as is applicable to special form of government for the City of Saint John. Taxation within the municipalities of New Brunswick should be standardized.

Mr. Farrell in his address to the Union at Moncton in 1913 referred to a matter of endorsement by the province of all bonds issued by municipalities within the province. The action of the government of New Brunswick following the destruction of the town of Campbellton, was in effect an endorsement of that town's bond issue, and for any similar reason it became necessary for the government of New Brunswick to assist any town, city or municipality it would undoubtedly do so. Therefore the government of New Brunswick might as well, so far as liability is concerned, go the full length of guaranteeing all bonds issued by municipal authority within the province. This would enable the smaller communities to sell their bonds at highest market rate.

It would be wise legislation, the enactment of a law appointing a commissioner of municipalities, who should be entirely free from all political control, and vested with extensive supervisory powers. The inspection of all sinking funds should be made compulsory, with the power of levying and collecting additional assessment in cases where the facts would warrant such a measure.

I am pleased to inform you that the Children's Protection Act is being tried out in the municipality of the City and County of St. John, with anticipated good results. The act should be in full operation in every town in New Brunswick. To make it effective a provincial probation officer is necessary.

A movement is on foot to provide a pension or superannuation scheme for municipal employees. I recommend the appointment of a permanent committee to meet with the municipal and provincial government employees with a view to securing of legislation for the proper and efficient establishment of a pension fund.

The various resolutions passed at the meeting of the Union held in St. John were formally laid before the government.

The resolution touching the sale of the poor to the lowest bidder was considered at length by the Executive Council, and the conclusion reached was that as such a law might produce discord in certain counties it would be better to use the machinery now available and create a strong public sentiment against such methods.

Owing to the war conditions and other causes no action was taken by the government with the resolution for Good Roads.

but the subject will not down easily, and the issue must be met. Good roads is a business proposition which may be kept out of politics, but the problem, if side-stepped for a time, it will be pushed back in public view, awkwardly may be, but firmly there.

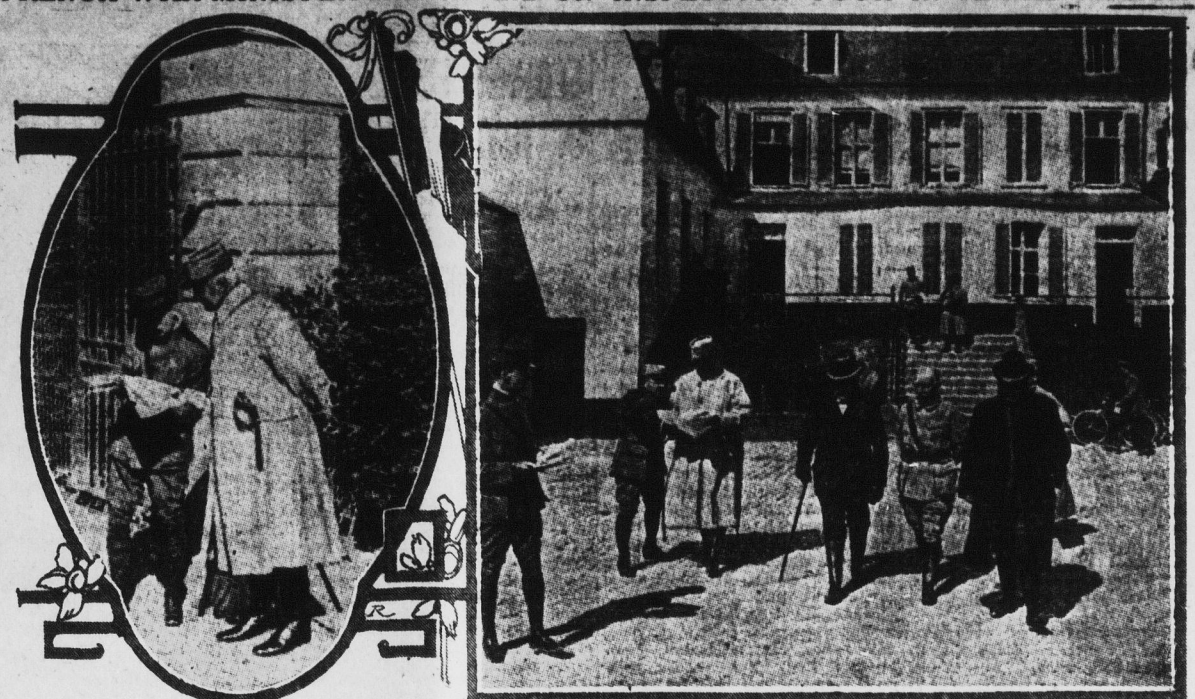
We do not expect the government to create money for the highways. We make reasonable allowance, because of the limited income for highways available to the provincial government, but we do urge that as far as possible the highway management be taken out of party politics and placed on a business basis and an engineer and assistants be engaged. To the ordinary observer much of the patching of roads in June and July is time and money wasted.

The patrol system has proven a success elsewhere, and we believe, no sound reason exists against its application in a general way to the provincial system of highways.

Attorney-General Barker

Attorney-General Barker in opening expressed his pleasure at being present

FRENCH WAR MINISTER MILLERAND ON INSPECTION TOUR IN ARRAS REGION



GENERAL D'URBAL STUDYING MAPS

Mr. Millerand, French Minister of War, who has figured conspicuously in recent cable despatches relating to possible changes in the policy of the war administration, is shown in the larger of the above pictures while making a tour of inspection to the armies operating in the neighborhood of Arras, where the French have made their great offensive against the Germans. General D'Urbal, commanding the Arras army, is seen on the left, and in the centre, with Mr. Millerand, is Albert Thomas, French Minister of Munitions. In the smaller picture General D'Urbal is shown with an officer of his staff studying a map of the German positions.

FRENCH WAR MINISTER ON VISIT TO THE ARRAS ARMY.

ent at the tenth annual convention of the Union of Municipalities. He had been connected with this association at its inception, but owing to his removal from the municipal council of St. John to that of a legal position in connection with the city, he had been unable to take as active an interest in the work of the association as he desired, but he had always tried to follow the work of union as far as he was able. He had accepted the invitation of president to deliver an address, and chose as his subject "Public Service."

The Value of a Few Words of Encouragement

"We must, however, depend on the energies of the individual for what we obtain," said Hon. Mr. Baxter, "but back of all must be the people. I wish the people of New Brunswick would come to realize that men are giving up their time and efforts to further the interest of their respective municipalities. Give these men some words of encouragement. Instead of

the intolerable criticism that is in many cases meted out to them. They are striving to better conditions that all may share—alike in advantages. Service in municipality is more important to the nation than service at the head of the state, and criticism of men serving at home is invariably more severe than criticism given men in either provincial or dominion governments. There is always the play of politics in the latter two and one side will uphold what the other criticizes. In a municipality criticism is even worse. It is only fair to give honest recognition to the men who have no other intentions than to serve their community. It is the work of the people at their own hearts that wins, and if a man does not appreciate

ate a thing when it is well done, he is not worthy to be called a citizen of any community, and it is this organization, the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities that will be able to place municipal legislation on a higher plane than before. The vigilance of this union is of vital importance to municipalities."

Then Prof. Chipman of Truro Technical School gave a very interesting address on technical education in Nova Scotia, pointing out the many advantages of technical education, and suggesting that the system of technical education be adopted in New Brunswick.

President J. D. Palmer of the Fredericton Board of Trade then opened a discussion regarding technical education in New Brunswick.

In the evening the executive introduced and carried a resolution regarding the establishment of technical education in New Brunswick and eight schools in cities and towns, for the use of technical workers. This resolution was fully discussed and finally carried.

Alderman Higgins of St. Stephen read a very interesting paper on the subject of Municipalities and Patriotic Work. Following this, a Councillor O'Brien put forward a motion that 15,000 copies of this paper be published, as well as 15,000 copies of a paper read by R. B. Wallace in St. John last year.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ST. JOHN FOLKS

We wish to announce we are exclusive St. John agents for the simple mixture of buckhorn bark, glycerine, etc., known as Adler-ika. This remedy, used successfully for appendicitis, is the most THOROUGH bowel cleanser we ever sold. It is so powerful that ONE SPOONFUL relieves almost ANY CASE of constipation, sour or gassy stomach, Adler-ika never grips, is safe to use and the INSTANT action is surprising. J. B. Mahony, druggist, corner Dock and Union.

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