

THE LATE MAJOR BAKER.

The deep sympathy of every municipal man in Canada goes out to Mr. S. Baker, the City Clerk of London, Ont., who, on the morning of the U. C. M. Convention, towards which he had done much to ensure success, received news that his son, Major Horace Baker, had been killed in action. The receiving of such sad news was very personal to the delegates present, for each one had some one at the front, and the vote of condolence that was immediately passed truly represented the feelings of men and women who knew something of the cost of war.

BETTER RACIAL RELATIONS IN CANADA.

One of the resolutions passed at the London Convention is particularly opportune at this time of racial ill-feeling, brought about largely by the impassioned utterances of irresponsibles, who know not, or at least will not recognize the importance of cementing the relations of the two dominant races of Canada. The resolution, which reads as follows, tells its own story, and should be taken seriously by all Canadians, whether they be French or English speaking, who have the cause of the Dominion at heart:

"Whereas the friendly relations hitherto existing between the various provinces of this Dominion are now being jeopardized by certain immoderate statements and writings;

"It is resolved that this convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, expressing the constant desire of the thinking people of Canada to mutually extend to each other their friendly hand, earnestly urges the citizens of Canada to refrain from utterances either oral or written, which might tend to divide into factions the people of this country, thereby preventing them from working out the destiny of the Dominion."

CANADIAN MUNICIPAL MANUAL AND PUBLIC UTILITIES LAW.

Edited by SIR WILLIAM RALPH MEREDITH (Chief Justice of Ontario.)

What would be termed in legal phraseology a manual of municipal and public utilities law, but what in reality is an invaluable guide to the municipal councillor or officer, has just been published by the Canada Law Book Company of Toronto. The compilers are J. R. Meredith, K.C., and W. B. Wilkinson, K.C., and the whole of the work is under the editorship of Sir William Ralph Meredith, Chief Justice of Ontario.

Though compilers and editors are Ontario men, the work itself is not by any means confined to the municipal law of the central province. The laws of every province are treated separately, and then co-ordinated with the general theme, which is the Canadian municipal law as interpreted by Canadian and English decisions. To our mind the special value of the work is in the editor's reviews of the court decisions, which are critical to the extent of taking exception to some of the decisions. This is very helpful to the legislative committees of local councils in seeking amendments to existing statutes, and the fact of the reviews being written in plain English—as indeed the whole of the work is with the exception of the text of the acts treated—makes it all the easier for the average man to follow. The work comprises such subjects as: Municipal Administration; Proceedings in Council; Validity of By-laws; Expropriation; Acquisition of Land and Compensation; Annexation; Municipal Elections; Corrupt Practice; Qualifications of Officers; Capacity to Contract and Liability under Contracts; Debentures; Finance; Bonus By-laws and Subsidies; Local Improvements; Assessments and Taxation; Licenses; High-

THE DUTIES OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

One of the local papers, in an editorial, criticized the London convention for taking up questions that apparently are outside the functions of local authorities, the editor evidently having in mind the discussions and resolutions referring to our soldiers. We would remind our contemporary that the soldiers, and their families' welfare is very much the business of the municipal council, being just as much a community as a national question, and as citizens the men have every right to seek the help of the city or town fathers, so that when in convention the municipal councils were more than justified in urging their claims to the Federal authorities. Too many people, like our contemporary, are under the impression that the duties of a municipal council begin in the levying and collecting of local taxes and end in their spending. Nothing is further from the mark. The material administration of the municipality is but part of the council's duties. There is the social and moral responsibility of the council as the elected leaders of the people which is just as important in the successful administration of a community as the legal responsibility. That moral responsibility takes in the social welfare and education as well as the health of the citizens, and anything bearing in that welfare, however indirectly must be taken up by that authority in closest contact with the people—that is the municipal council. To take the case of the soldiers, every man who joins the army leaves his family to the care of the community—as a unit of the nation and it is the duty of the council as head of the community, to see that the soldiers' families and the men themselves when they return, have all that is coming to them, and a little more if possible, so that they can live as respectable citizens should do, and without becoming charges on the community.

ways and Bridges; Drains and Sewers; Sanitation; Nuisances; Regulation of Business and Buildings; Liability for Torts, etc., etc.

The special Acts treated include: Public Utilities Act; Local Improvement Act; Municipal Arbitrations Act; Municipal Franchises Act; Patriotic Grants Act; Planning and Development Act; Bureau of Municipal Affairs Act; Arbitrations Act; Municipal Electric Contracts Act.

A valuable lead to the reader is given in the index, which is not only complete, but so arranged that whatever phase of the municipal act one wants to look up the index is there to guide him. This part of the work alone, which takes up 106 pages of the 1,040 pages in the book, must have taken up much time and patience to perfect. According to the preface, this great work has been six years in preparation—of course the labour given has been necessarily intermittent. One sad phase of the work, and one that brings it in close touch with this great war is that one of the authors, Mr. J. R. Meredith, K.C., who was early in the work compelled to withdraw from co-operation by his military duties, was killed, thus leaving his share to his father, Sir William Meredith, to finish. This eminent jurist took up the double burden with added enthusiasm, possibly because of his son's legacy, and as his co-author says in the preface, every line of the big work was passed under his critical eye.

Altogether the Canadian Municipal Manual is a masterly work, each of the many subjects that come under municipal administration being treated exhaustively but tersely, and the many cases coming under municipal law analyzed in that clear-cut English that one would expect from such an eminent editor. The price of the work, which is in one large volume, is \$20, and it should be on the shelves of every municipal library in Canada.—F. W.