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VANCOUVER.**HISTORY OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
BOARD OF SASKATCHEWAN.**

Continued.

In the year 1914 the difficult matter of dealing with superfluous subdivisions was undertaken by the Local Government Board, and the Act respecting Subdivisions was passed. It was found on inquiry that owing to the rapid increase of population (which had grown 500 per cent in the nine years from the inauguration of Saskatchewan to 1914), owing also to the great expansion of business and the flow of capital, real property in the vicinity of urban centres, had increased enormously in value. But in anticipation of this prosperity being continued, the prices had been inflated far beyond what was warranted by actual conditions, being based more or less on prospective growth. In 1914, however, money suddenly became scarce, business expansion ceased, and the flow of immigration was checked, with the result that these lots were left a drug on the market. It was found that there was a total of approximately 277,000 acres of these subdivided lands, of which 214,000 were inside corporation limits, and by far the greater part of these lands were not, and for many years probably would not be needed for building purposes. The Act respecting Subdivisions gave the board power to initiate proceedings to cancel plans of survey of subdivisions, but it was seldom necessary to use this power, as the owners themselves made application for the cancellation; and although many difficulties arose where scattered lots had been sold in many subdivisions, the board succeeded in getting several of these plans removed and the land returned to the agricultural class where it belonged.

The Local Government Board Act has been twice amended and was consolidated at the last session. The changes made in almost every case have merely to do with methods of procedure which were designed to facilitate the business of the board. Two exceptions to this, however, may be mentioned. An amendment was made at the session of 1916 by which when default has been made in retiring debentures of debenture coupons, when due, the board was given power to intervene and adjust matters between the defaulting municipal corporation or school board and the disappointed bond holders. The effect is to constitute the board a mediator between the parties concerned, so as to assist both in reaching an equitable adjustment. This power has many times been exercised, and four formal inquiries have been made in this connection. The other noteworthy change was the addition of a new clause relating the conditions under which, in connection with the board's orders, an appeal is allowed to a judge of the supreme court.

A new Sale of Shares Act was passed in 1916. The main difference between the new and the old legislation is that whereas under the old Act the power is given after examination, to control the sale of shares of unregistered foreign companies only, the new Act gives the board authority over the sale of all shares or bonds, except those of the Dominion of Canada and of its provinces, of foreign countries, and of all varieties of municipal, school or local improvement districts in Canada.

In addition to the work outlined above, in its judicial capacity the Board has on many occasions settled appeals against the assessment of subdivisions.

The services which the board is rendering may be summarised as follows:

1. It supervises the debenture borrowings of all municipalities, school districts and rural telephone companies.
2. It administers The Act respecting Subdivisions.
3. It administers the Sale of Shares Act.
4. It protects both the bond buyer and the local authority.
5. It gives its assistance in adjusting the affairs of local authorities which for various reasons have become involved.
6. It hears and determines appeals from the decisions of courts of revision of assessments of all cities, such towns as are designated by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and subdivisions in rural municipalities.—Deputy Minister for Municipal Affairs, Saskatchewan.