

REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE UNION OF B. C. MUNICIPALITIES.

(Continued).

Report of the Resolutions Committee.

1. City of Duncan.—That this Union of B. C. Municipalities urge upon the Provincial Government the advisability of their taking over the entire control of the Police Force of the Province and that proper regulations as to rank, duties, pay, pension, etc., be framed as will attract the right class of men and so ensure the formation of a highly trained efficient body of men, who can be depended upon to enforce the laws of the Province effectively and intelligently, and whose activities will embrace the whole of this Province without being hampered by metes and bounds of any particular district.

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be not adopted.—Carried.

2. Whereas section 26 of the B. C. Prohibition Act Amendment Act 1920 is faulty in construction and practically valueless to Municipalities by reason of the fact that any by-law framed on that section is liable to be upset in a Court of Law;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Union of B. C. Municipalities request the Provisional Government to revise the said section in conformity with the general rules regulating Municipal license fees and that the said section be also transferred to section 290 of the Municipal Act where it rightly belongs.

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be referred to the Solicitor for re-draft.—Carried.

3. Whereas section 19 of the Public Schools Act provides for a certain definite per capita grant from the Government for each teacher employed in Municipal Schools;

AND WHEREAS such policy is not calculated to encourage the employment of the most efficient and more highly paid teacher but the direct contrary:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Provincial Government be urged to make its school grant upon a basis of a fixed proportion of the salaries actually paid, with a view to the encouragement of a higher standard of teaching efficiency in this Province.

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be submitted to the Board of School Trustees' Convention the following week.—Carried.

4. Section 238 of the Municipal Act, as revised in 1919 does not go quite far enough. Provision should be made whereby the Collector has the power to divide up and apportion the levy for the current year in a similar manner to what he may do with arrears and delinquent taxes. Suggested that recommendations be made that this action be revised accordingly.

Moved and seconded that this be referred to the solicitor for re-draft.—Carried.

5. Burnaby.—That the qualifications for Police Commissioners be at least the same as the qualifications presently required for candidates for Councillors and School Trustees.

Moved and second that this resolution be re-submitted again this year.—Carried.

6. That the Hospital Act Amendment Act, 1920, be repealed, and that in lieu thereof provision be made for the payment by Municipal Corporations for the care and maintenance in hospitals of indigent sick persons only.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

7. That the powers of the Inspector of Municipalities be enlarged, so that this official may be endowed with the powers which are proposed to be conferred upon a Local Government Board.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be laid over until the question of Local Government Board comes up for discussion.—Carried.

8. That Municipal boundaries be disregarded in so far as they may relate to high schools or technical schools, and that such schools be provided and maintained by the Provincial Government.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

9. That the existing system of several police organizations throughout the Province, be abolished, and that the police and the Administration of Justice be co-ordinated and operate under the direct control of the Province.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be rejected.—Carried.

10. That where any Act provides for powers or obligations upon or by any municipal corporation, that reference to such Act be made in the Municipal Act.

This resolution was not recommended.

11. This Corporation would beg to advocate the appointment of a committee composed of members of the Union of B. C. Municipalities to study the whole question of municipal taxation, and the methods necessary therefor, and to report thereon at the next Convention.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

12. District of Langley.—WHEREAS, notwithstanding the fact that very stringent regulations for the eradication in the Municipality of Langley, of noxious weeds, particularly the Canada Thistle, have been made and are being strictly enforced, the growth and spread of same to new areas hitherto not infected, still appears strong; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Langley Municipal Council that the noxious weeds pest cannot be properly controlled while hay and straw containing such weeds continue to be transported from one district to another;

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the District of Langley that the Provincial Government be asked to amend Section 17 of the "Noxious Weeds Act," being Chapter 66 of the statutes of British Columbia, 1915, making specific provision to prohibit the removal from off the premises on which it has grown, all hay and straw, whether loose or in bales, containing Noxious Weeds, particularly Canada Thistle and Ox Eye Daisy.

This resolution was not recommended.

13. City of Revelstoke.—That this Convention strongly oppose any form of Local Government Board as no benefit will be derived except to create an expense of from \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year.

This resolution was laid on the table until the question of Local Government Board should come up.

That all resolutions dealing with the Local Government Board from 1919 be filed.

Also laid over for the discussion of Local Government Board.

14. That the Local Improvement Act be repealed and in future all monies borrowed for improvements be voted on by the tax payers.

This resolution was not recommended.

15. That the Provincial Government be asked to re-classify Municipalities giving a separate Act for each class as follows:

- (a) Cities of the first class.—To cover all cities over 10,000 of a population.
- (b) Cities of second class. — To cover all cities of a population of from 3,000 to 10,000.
- (c) Municipalities of first class.—Covering municipalities with a population of less than 3,000 and including all district municipalities with large areas of acreage.
- (d) Municipalities of second class.—To cover all municipalities incorporated for the purpose of irrigating, dyking, etc.

Each Act to be complete so as to deal with all matters, pertaining to its own class, and divided up as follows:

- Division 1.—Forms of Government or management and qualifications.
- Division 2.—Mode for appointing management and the qualifications of electors.
- Division 3.—Mode of assessment and Court of Revision on same.
- Division 4.—Mode of levying taxes and the sources of revenue of same.
- Division 5.—General powers to expend current revenue.
- Division 6.—Powers of borrowing by by-law, and the methods of voting on same and the qualifications of voters.
- Division 7.—Collecting of taxes, Public Utility, Rates and the sale of lands for unpaid taxes.
- Division 8.—Powers by By-Laws to cover and regulate all licenses and premises; the abating of nuisances; Public Health, etc.
- Division 9.—Powers by resolution.
- Division 10.—General management, powers and limitations of cities having Public Utilities.
- Division 11.—Duties of the Municipal Inspector's Office.

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