

Convention of B. C. Municipalities.—(Continued). (Continued from page 613).

mist and obscurity, with no clear cut demarcations in the Act to guide him, and no beacon lights of judicial authority to shine upon his pathway; and

(C).—Last, but not least, the Act should be revised to eliminate the indefinite and indeterminate power of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. What amount of power, and authority to control and supervise the inside workings of a municipality the Lieutenant-Governor in Council should have is, of course, a political matter. It is no part of this paper to discuss them, although the Writer has very strong opinions on the point, but there can be no question that just exactly what the Lieutenant-Governor in Council can do and cannot do, just precisely where his jurisdiction commences and above all, where it ends, should be laid down in the Act with the utmost clarity. All the way through the Acts, stands on top of the municipality the words, "subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council"—approval untrammelled, uncontrolled with reason or without reason the Lieutenant-Governor in Council can make or mar your progress—give one privilege to one Municipality—withhold the same privilege from another. Without appeal, without resource, without, it may be, any due conception of the circumstances. Surely such a system needs some boundary line established, or we be in worse case than our fathers in the days of James II.

These are only some of the various reasons leading me as your Solicitor to ask you to press upon the Government a revision and consolidation of the various Acts governing our municipal life. Your experience will suggest many other reasons which for lack of time I have not touched upon, but the time and the circumstances of this present make me feel we might now with propriety seek the end I suggest.

For, in the final analysis no Statutes so affect the every day life of the people of British Columbia as do the Acts respecting municipalities. Ninety per cent. at least of all our people live and do business within the boundaries of some Municipality. This convention is as truly representative of the people of the Province as the Legislature is, and usually more in touch with the wants of the inhabitants of the Province, particularly along the lines of their

own special work of the Government of the municipalities than the members of the Legislature can possibly be.

Moved by Mr. F. F. McDiarmid, seconded by Reeve Bridgman that the report be received and referred to the Resolution Committee.—Carried.

Solicitor McDiarmid then called the attention of the Union to the operation of the War Relief Act as it affects Municipalities:

War Relief Act.

The attention of the Union is called to the operation of The War Relief Act, as it affects Municipalities. The language, omitting the parts not applicable, is, "During the continuance of the war it shall not be lawful for any person or corporation to take any proceeding outside of Court, against a person, etc., for the enforcement payment of his debts, liabilities or obligations existing or future—whether created before or after the coming into force of this Act."

Our Judges are giving the widest possible interpretation to this section. It has been held to apply to Militia regiments on active service at home guarding bridges, etc. It has been held to a Militia regiment not on active service, but drilling twice a weekly only. Further, in regard to the municipalities it has been held to suspend the giving of a deed for property sold for taxes before the Act came into force, where the period of redemption was still running at the date of the passing of the Act. Thus in effect lengthening the time of redemption.

Now, on the basis of this latter decision. I am of opinion property no valid assessment for taxes can be made upon property owned by any soldier or sailor. It is for all practical purposes in the same category as if specifically exempted from taxation.

The whole portion of the Municipal Act dealing with these matters, is taxation. The raising of the money for the Municipality. Every step of the process is a step for the enforcement of payment of moneys to the end that government of the Municipality may be carried on. The first step is the assessment roll—then the collector's roll, then the collector's process for obtaining the money. Every step is a part of the proceeding and falls under the very language of the Act."

Moved by Mr. F. A. McDiarmid, Solicitor, seconded by Reeve Sullivan, Surray, that a Special Committee be appointed to deal with the War Relief Act.—Carried.

A Practical Education

By B. F. FREEMAN, Principal, Armstrong High School.

A practical education is an expression much used in these days. What does it mean? Those who use it generally have in mind an education that is not purely ornamental and disciplinary, but one that will help solve the eternal bread and butter question, as well as add something to the wealth of the world and to the welfare of its people. To use a concrete example: a farmer who sends his son to the public and high schools cannot see of what benefit the learning of a smattering of Latin, French, Mythology, Demonstrative Geometry and a few other subjects which he is compelled to take up in order to pursue his course of study will be to the boy, who a little later will either be in command of a stock farm with its cattle, horses, sheep and swine, for which various crops must be raised, or of an orchard with its various kinds of fruits. Likewise the manufacturer and the business man are asking the same question. The one desiring the skilled worker, the other a man capable of learning and carrying on a business successfully. A bank manager said to me recently that all he wanted in a boy who wished to learn the banking business was for him to be able to write an open hand, to add and multiply, etc., correctly, and especially to compose an ordinary business letter; spelling and punctuating it properly, and he added further that many apprentices to the banking business could not do this.

A young fellow once upon a time graduated with honours from one of our universities, then struck out for a great American City to make his fortune, only to discover that his B. A. degree was of no value to him in looking for a job. The only thing left for him to do was to teach school for which he had received no special training. This

young man, who, according to many, was highly educated was totally unfitted for the battle of life, even, I have no doubt to teach school.

And now let us notice economic and social conditions that have brought about the demand for a practical education. In early times industry was largely left to slaves and serfs, and education was confined to a narrow field and to a numerically restricted class of people. Early education was only intended for the elect—for the propertied class, the class that scorned labour and the laborer. Only the owner of the large estate and his family were educated, the workers being slaves and serfs were entirely ignorant. Education was purely ornamental and disciplinary, but more ornamental than disciplinary. The class that scorned the workers scorned as well any subject with a practical bearing. The eldest son inherited the estate with its emoluments, the younger sons usually were trained for the army, navy or the church or else became useless appendages, receiving remittances from the elder son, and spending their time in sport or idleness. They were those "who had rather see their children starve like gentlemen than thrive in a trade or profession that is beneath their quality." But with the progress of democracy, this old condition of things was gradually changed. The slave and the serf were emancipated; being free they began to develop in the spirit of independence; the workers began to clamour for their rights. They demanded educational privileges. Along with the development of democracy one class after another was admitted into the charmed circle from which the ancient lowly were sternly excluded. At the same time education was broadening its