

U. C. M. CONVENTION

According to the programme prepared by the executive the convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities to be held in Montreal, next August, will be a memorable one not only in the live questions chosen for discussion but in the special speakers who have been invited because of their practical knowledge of the subjects they will introduce. On Municipal Finance Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor of the Bank of Montreal, and Mr. Thomas Bradshaw, the finance commissioner and treasurer of Toronto, will be the speakers, and what these gentlemen don't know about the financial problems of our cities and towns is not worth knowing. Sir Frederick for years has made a special study of Canadian municipal finance as many of our municipal executives who have called upon him for advice on their civic finances, have found to their advantage. He it was who, when representing the Bank of Montreal in London, did more than any other man to bring Canadian municipals to the favourable notice of the British investor. Mr. Bradshaw accepted the position of Financial Commissioner of Toronto at a sacrifice—though the salary is a big one—but as he has pointed out every man has a public duty to perform to the best of his ability—and Thomas Bradshaw's ability is great—but like all big men he is ever ready to help the small fellow, which in this case is the smaller municipalities.

It will be noted that the second session opens with "Municipal Responsibility in Canada's Preparedness". This subject is so important at the present moment, and so wide as to take in such problems as Returned Soldiers; The Patriotic Fund; Immigration; Public Employment Offices; and Encouragement to Industries; every one of which are very municipal in their character and application. Among the speakers at this session will be Sir Herbert Ames, the Secretary of the Patriotic Fund, and who gained his public experience as an alderman of Montreal, and Dr. Page, Immigration Officer at Quebec, who will have something very practical to say on the mis-direction of our foreign immigrants. A very important session will be that devoted to the different forms of municipal government. The object in taking up this very much alive problem is not for the discussion of abstract forms of idealism in civic administration, but to try and get something concrete and useful from those who have administered under the different forms of civic government. Each system will be presented by a practical exponent; such as Mayor Hardie of Lethbridge, on the Commission form, Commissioner McLagan of Westmount on the Manager form, and Commissioner Yorath of Saskatoon on Civic government as he has experienced it,

Mr. W. D. Lighthall, the Hon. Sec. of the Union will introduce the subject, and as he has had seventeen years of practical experience of every form of civic government as it has worked out in Canada his paper will be looked forward to with interest.

Municipal Accounting will be handled by Mr. E. T. Sampson City Clerk of Outremont, whose training was got in the old country but who has been sufficiently long in the Dominion to adapt the English system to Canadian conditions. The necessity of separate municipal departments being part of the administration of every province will be taken up by Deputy Minister Bayne of Saskatchewan. Mr. Thomas Adams will give a resume of his splendid work in the cause of town planning, and as some of the provinces have adopted his Town Planning Act, his paper will be particularly instructive. Dr. Brittain of the Bureau of Municipal Research, Toronto will give some suggestions on "How Best to Introduce Modern Systems of Municipal Work", and Mr. Howard Ross of Montreal who has made a study of the subject will speak on "Proportional Representation". Mr. J. Duchastel, the President of the Dominion Good Roads Association will give a paper on the influence of the good roads movement on urban municipalities, and the new Hydro-Electric Railway system of Ontario will be treated by Mr. T. J. Hannigan the secretary.

With such a bill of fare the convention is bound to be successful and have a lasting effect on the municipal life of this country, though it is up to the city and town councils to help on the good work by sending down delegates. In union there is strength in more ways than standing together to face a common danger. The meeting together of municipal executives are always of mutual benefit to their respective communities and it is to be hoped that every municipality will be represented.

Now is the time for our municipal councils to get a line on how to prepare for after the war conditions and they will never have such an opportunity as at the U. C. M. Convention.

FUTURE GOVERNOR GENERAL ONCE A MAYOR.

A very interesting fact in connection with the Duke of Devonshire, the future Governor-General of Canada is that he is not new to municipal life, as he was once Mayor of one of England's small towns. The Duke is not by any means the only member of the British peerage who has taken an official part in civic matters (one notable instance is the Duke of Norfolk, at one time Mayor of Westminster, London) for during the last ten years it has been the privilege of many aristocrats to preside over the municipal destinies of some town or city they might be interested in.