

The Municipal Dept. of Saskatchewan

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Deputy Minister Municipal Affairs

The new Deputy Minister for Municipal Affairs for Saskatchewan in his first annual report gave a synopsis of the work of the department since its establishment ten years ago. Outside of Mr. J. M. Bayne, his predecessor, no one has had more to do in placing Saskatchewan's municipal department on a working basis than did Mr. Smith himself, so that the outline as given below is first-hand information:

The Department of Municipal Affairs has completed the first decade of its existence. This period has been one of remarkable progress and development for the municipal institutions of the Province. The Department succeeded the old Local Improvement Branch of the Department of Public Works and came into being on November 1, 1908. On February 8, 1909, Mr. J. N. Bayne, who had for some time previous held the position of Clerk in Charge of the Local Improvement Branch, was appointed as the first Deputy Minister.

At the time of the establishment of the Department, the municipal institutions of the Province consisted of four cities, forty-three towns, one hundred and eight villages, two rural municipalities and three hundred and fifty-nine local improvement districts. These local improvement districts comprised an area of four townships each and possessed quite limited powers of self-government. Outside of the rural municipalities of Indian Head and Qu'Appelle, they were the only form of rural municipal organization then in existence in the Province. On December 13, 1909, all these local improvement districts were disorganized and the Province divided according to a general plan into "territorial units" of nine townships each. The portion of the Province which had been previously organized into small local improvement districts under **The Local Improvement Act**, along with several additional townships whose population warranted such action, were established as local improvement districts, each district comprising the area of a territorial unit. The ratepayers were given the option of deciding by vote as to whether these units were to continue as local improvement districts or to become rural municipalities with larger powers and responsibilities. By the end of the first financial year of the Department, which closed on February 28, 1910, seventy-four new rural municipalities had been established. During the years 1910, 1911 and 1912 the work of the organization went on, and by the end of the latter year the number of rural municipalities in the Province had increased to two hundred, while the number of local improvement districts had been reduced to ninety. By special legislation passed at the 1912-13 session, and taking effect January 1, 1913, all local improvement districts became rural municipalities. The total number of rural municipalities was thus increased to two hundred and ninety. During the same period eighteen towns and one hundred villages were incorporated. Since January 1, 1913, three cities, fourteen towns, one hundred and nine villages and ten rural municipalities, have been added, so that at the present time we have seven cities, seventy-five towns, three hundred and seventeen villages and three hundred rural municipalities. While the increase in the number of municipalities, both urban and rural, during the past decade has been little short of marvellous, the development during the same period in the work carried on by the municipal institutions of the Province has been no less remarkable. It is unnecessary that I refer in detail to the many changes in our municipal laws which have served to broaden the scope of municipal work. These have been dealt with quite fully in previous annual reports. This development in municipal work and municipal responsibility is the logical result of the rapid growth and expansion of the Province and must continue so long as our population increases and new problems arise.

Mr. J. N. Bayne's Work

On the eighth of February last, Mr. J. N. Bayne, who had held the office of Deputy Minister of the Department for the previous ten years, resigned to accept a commissionership on the Local Government Board. It is quite unnecessary that any special reference be made in this report to the splendid work done by Mr. Bayne on behalf of the municipal institutions of Saskatchewan. This work is too well known to require any comment here. It is gratifying to know that Mr. Bayne's wide experience and inti-

mate knowledge of municipal affairs will not be lost to the municipalities of the Province in his new position.

The Work of the Councils

In concluding this report a word should be said about the work of the municipal councils and officials of the Province. During the past year the municipal inspectors have personally visited the different municipal offices and inspected the books and records of the clerks and secretary-treasurers and noted the manner in which the business of the municipalities was being conducted. The reports of the inspectors show that both councils and officials have a full realization of the great importance of the work in which they are engaged and are putting forth every possible effort to improve the material and social conditions of the communities in which they live.

CROWDING CHILDREN TOGETHER

Danger of Moral Contagion Unless There Is Proper Supervision.

One of the evils all too common in connection with our various Children's Homes and Shelters is the indiscriminate mixing of children in playground and dormitory and allowing them to associate too freely. Better to have a child put into a home where there is smallpox than to throw him into close and intimate association with other children of corrupt mind and evil language and habits. We cannot have a separate institution for each particular ailment but what we can do is to have sufficient help and supervision in these institutions so that no children will be allowed to group and play together without a responsible adult near to see what is going on. An adequate, well-paid staff is absolutely essential to successful work with children and in smaller institutions—especially in a Children's Shelter, my recommendation would be to have a suitable young lady as supervisor who would come in the morning and be constantly with the children, amusing and entertaining them and seizing every opportunity to direct their thoughts along pure and elevating lines. Will not all Committees and Boards of management please give this suggestion their very friendly consideration. Child welfare work is one department where economy is not a virtue.—J. J. Kelso.

What a Town Planning Scheme Includes.

The preparation of a Town Planning scheme naturally divides into two parts, one of which has to do with the planning of land—more particularly the location of main arterial thoroughfares which may be regarded as the skeleton or framework upon which future expansions of the city may be built; while the other part relates to the regulations and laws which are to govern the laying out of streets and the development and occupancy by private owners of land for purposes of business and habitation.—W. F. Burditt, St. John.

The New York Herald on Sunday, November 23rd, published in its Magazine Section an article on "Old Hudson Bay" and the "New Manitoba District." This article presented the general physical features of Hudson Bay, its resources and its historic importance, taking up the story of the Hudson's Bay Trading Company; and its new importance with the approaching completion of the railway line from the The Pas, on the Saskatchewan River in Manitoba, to Port Nelson, 424 miles away on Hudson Bay, by which wheat will be shipped direct from the Western Canadian fields via Hudson Bay to Europe.

It also told of the opening of rich new mineral fields around the head of Lake Winnipeg, which were discovered with the making of the railway surveys just as the discovery of the great Cobalt district resulted from the survey for what was originally intended as a new grain carrying line—now the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railroad. Next spring will see a great rush of prospectors into the New Manitoba district and a general development of the lands along the Nelson River and the railroad now under construction.