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THE WESTERN MUNICIPAL UNION

It is very encouraging to see the attitude adopted at the inaugural Convention of the Western Municipal Union.

There were some who believed that the formation of a western union meant disruption and disunion between the West and the East, and grave doubts were expressed in certain quarters as to the impending division.

Instead of this, there was a most cordial feeling towards the Mother Union in the mind of the Baby Union, and thanks were freely extended to the Union of Canadian Municipalities for the good work done, and especially for the help extended in the struggle of the western municipalities to escape from the tyranny of the big corporations.

This is just as it should be.

While, as was pointed out in our last, there are many questions that are provincial, and need the attention of a local union, yet the main questions before every municipality in Canada are essentially the same. And when questions arise before the Federal House of Commons that touch on every municipality, it is necessary that a united front of every municipality, from Halifax to Victoria, be shown if success is to be expected.

Many of the most important problems in municipal life are common to all, and a united study by all is the best solution for all.

Every admirer of municipal progress will heartily endorse the attitude of the newly formed Western Municipal Union.

QUEBEC PROVINCIAL UNION

The Executive of the Union of Municipalities of the Province of Quebec is organizing an excursion to Chicoutimi, which will leave Montreal on Sept. 4th, and will be back in Montreal on the 9th. The steamer "Cape Trinity" has been secured, and as the party will be a special one, there will be plenty of amusement on board. The trip will be a delightful one, as every one who has taken the "Saguenay Trip" knows well. Chicoutimi itself is an interesting place, and two days will be spent there.

CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT

Commencing with the next issue, the CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL will be edited and published by Mr. Harry Bragg, who founded it seventeen years ago, and who dropped out of the management to take charge of the Municipal Department in the Repatriation Committee at Ottawa.

Mr. Bragg's vast experience in municipal affairs and his personal contact with municipalities from coast to coast ensures the successful management of a much needed medium in Canada.

PROFITS AVAILABLE

It is always interesting to record an instance of successful municipal ownership in view of the usual critical attitude towards it.

In 1906, the City of Westmount, Que. established an incinerating plant, to burn the garbage and also to produce electricity. A careful study had been made by Mr. F. L. Fellowes, C.E., then the City Engineer, now City Engineer of Vancouver, B.C., and Mr. R. A. Ross, C.E., then of the firm of Ross and Holgate, now head of R. A. Ross & Co. The construction was in charge of Messrs. Ross and Holgate, who stipulated that they should manage it for a year.

An illustrated article on the plant, written by Mr. Fellowes, was published in June, 1906, and attracted a good deal of attention all over the continent, as this was in some ways an experiment.

At the end of the year, some citizens—agents of a big electric company who did not want municipal competition—claimed it was not successful. To answer this, Messrs. Ross and Holgate offered to pay \$10,000 a year for 5 years if the city would let them run it. Naturally, this offer proved to the Council and citizens that the plant was a success, and the city took it over.

The City Council has now determined to build a new City Hall, and they have been able to pay \$25,000 towards the cost out of the "Profits of the Electric Light Department."

Evidently, municipal ownership is not always the failure its opponents claim that it is.