

The subject of town planning has occupied of course considerable attention, being one of the principal and most urgent questions of the day, and I am sure the present convention will give to it a fair share of its attention.

The usual Executive meeting of the Union was held at Ottawa on the 31st January where the subjects of Uniform Municipal Statistics, Revision of Railway Act, Whistles and Bells and other matters were taken up and attended to.

Regarding Municipal Statistics, the Dominion Department of Statistics has embodied in its able report an endorsement of the plan of the Union for introducing the system in Canada, and this matter will doubtless be taken up at the next Session, having been crowded out in the same manner as the Railway Act.

An event of some importance has been the organization of the Union of Quebec Municipalities which is ably officered, and from which good results may be expected. It will hold its regular convention this autumn.

A bill was again introduced into Parliament to prevent pollution of waterways by municipalities. It once more brought protests from Halifax and other maritime places, where its application would be objectionable. Would it not be wise to suggest that the opposing views be brought into harmony by exemption of certain regions or classes of localities? A resolution of this Convention might be of assistance.

The cement duty question came up again and the Union took the same stand as formerly. The Government refused any rise in the duty.

A bill to allow the Postmaster General to fix rates of post office carriers on electric railways attracted some attention, being caused by a heavy demand by the Tramways Company in Montreal. But we found that the bill did not apply to municipally owned railways.

The work of our Bureau of Information and of the "Canadian Municipal Journal", our official organ, have been constantly effective.

This being the first of the years of celebration of the Hundred Years' Peace, it may be fitting to remark on the propriety of a representative body such as this expressing itself on the subject, since no bodies are more interested in peace than the municipal governments.

Upon motion of Mayor Hebert, Sherbrooke, Que., seconded by Ald. Boyd, Montreal, Que., this was received and adopted.

Mr. G. S. Wilson, Assistant Secretary, read the

Financial Report

The Financial Report of the Union, with statements of receipts and expenditures in detail, for the year ending December 31st, 1912, shows that the revenue of the Union is steadily increasing.

Our Auditor, Mr. H. J. Ross, has cheerfully given his time and supervision gratis, as usual; and his report is herewith attached.

Receipts.

Cash balance, January 1st, 1912.....	\$ 289.83
Bank Interest, 1912.....	14.64
Annual Fees of Municipalities.....	5,278.00
Contributed by Saskatchewan Union.....	50.00
Contributed by Nova Scotia Union.....	100.00
Contributed by Manitoba Union.....	100.00
Total.....	\$5,832.47

Expenditures.

General Expenses Account.....	\$2,270.05
Advisory Agent.....	825.00
Assistant Secretary, Salary, Rent, Stationery, Postage, and Official Organ.....	2,000.00
Total.....	5,095.05
Balance.....	737.42
	\$5,832.47

Auditor's Report.

I beg to report having audited the books of your Assistant Secretary, Mr. G. S. Wilson, and have this day certified as correct a Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for the year ending December, 1912.

Montreal, June 15th, 1913.

H. J. Ross,
Auditor.

Upon motion of Mayor Graham, London, Ont., seconded by Mayor Oliver, Port Arthur, Ont., this was received and adopted.

Mr. Harry Bragg, M.J.I., read the

Report of the Official Organ

It is an annual pleasure to attend this Convention and to present the report of your Official Organ, "The Canadian Municipal Journal."

As on previous occasions, I have to extend our thanks to the many friends of the "Journal," not only in Canada, but in other parts of the world.

Since my last report, another Provincial Union has been formed, the Union of Municipalities of the Province of Quebec, and I am proud to say that your Official Organ was chosen to be the Official Organ of the latest offshoot of the Federal Union. You may have noticed that the Official Report of the inaugural meeting was printed in both English and French.

A new feature has recently been introduced, and that is a section devoted to the Municipal Improvement Movement. It arose from a request of the City Improvement League of Montreal to have special representation, and after consulting the Honorary Secretary of the Union, arrangements were made by which the Journal became the Official Organ of the League, giving two pages in each issue. It is hoped by the Montreal League that this may be the nucleus of a Canadian wide movement.

But pleasant as is the editorial side of the Journal, the business side is not so delightful; and it appears as if this should be brought into this report.

To appreciate the situation, it is needful to recall the history of the inception of the Journal, nearly nine years ago.

At the London Convention, 1904, the Assistant Secretary made a proposal which was accepted. This was, that for a subsidy of \$2,000.00 a year, he would provide the salary of the secretary, rent of office, etc., and stationery; and send a copy of a monthly paper to the Mayor and Clerk of every Municipality in Canada.

It was difficult to secure enough capital to start the paper, as the Union was then \$1,400.00 in debt; but, finally, an amount was secured as a loan, which was not only never repaid, but which has had to be increased. That investment has been locked up for over eight years without any interest being obtainable.

Meantime, the condition of the Union became more favorable, and it will be generally admitted that its present position of power and comparative affluence is due, in some measure, to the existence of its Official Organ. Not only has the old debt been wiped out, but