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The New Executive of the U.C.M.

In its new executive the Union of Canadian Municipalities is singularly fortunate in the fact that all the members are tried municipal men in their respective communities. Mr. Arthur Roberts, K.C., the new president, is not only legal adviser to the Town of Bridgewater, N.S. but for fourteen years he has been secretary-treasurer of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities that is, since it was founded. During this period Mr. Roberts has lost no opportunity to bring before his union all that is best in municipal government as practised in other parts of the world, with the consequence that there are no better informed municipal men than those who administer civic affairs in Nova Scotia. While never neglecting the economic side, Mr. Roberts emphasizes the ethical and broader sides of municipal life than do most students of civics. This is evidenced in his annual reports and in his addresses delivered before other bodies, and those who have had the opportunity of hearing or reading these addresses have been enabled to appreciate better the bigness of the municipal life of Canada. He is one of the few men who can picture the ideals of civic government in such a way as to give real encouragement to those engaged in the administration of our cities and towns and rural districts. In his new position, Mr. Roberts will have a splendid opportunity to exercise his gifts for the benefit of the Union.

The First Vice-President, Alderman Dr. C. W. H. Rondeau, of the City of Westmount, is one of those delightful French-Canadians who go out of their way to serve their fellow citizens. Essentially democratic in his ideas the doctor never loses an

opportunity to see that the workers have a chance for decent living, as instanced in his strong advocacy of better housing conditions and a stricter enforcement of hygienic by-laws. The Second Vice-President, Controller J. G. Ramsden, of the City of Toronto, is one of the most enlightened men in civic affairs. His grasp of the broader questions of municipal government and their working out is an asset that will help him out in the solving of the new problems that the Union is beset with and in the Third Vice-President Reeve Pearson of Point Grey, B.C., the Union has an executive of twelve years' successful experience. The new Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. A. D. Shibley of Montreal was formerly Secretary-Treasurer of Westmount, and his municipal experience will stand him in good stead in his larger work.

To help in the administration of the Union the Executive was empowered to appoint an advisory committee of three, and the following Past Presidents were selected: Mayor Fisher of Ottawa, Mayor Bouchard of Ste. Hyacinthe and Mr. W. D. Lighthall, the late Secretary. The Provincial vice-presidents (made up of three municipal executives and the President and Secretary of each of the Provincial Unions) are supposed to form local committees of the Union, but so far these provincial committees have never functioned, for the reason that there is little or no co-operation between the Provincial and Federal Unions. The new executive have an opportunity of bringing about a better understanding between the Dominion and Provincial Unions which cannot help but benefit municipal Canada as a whole.